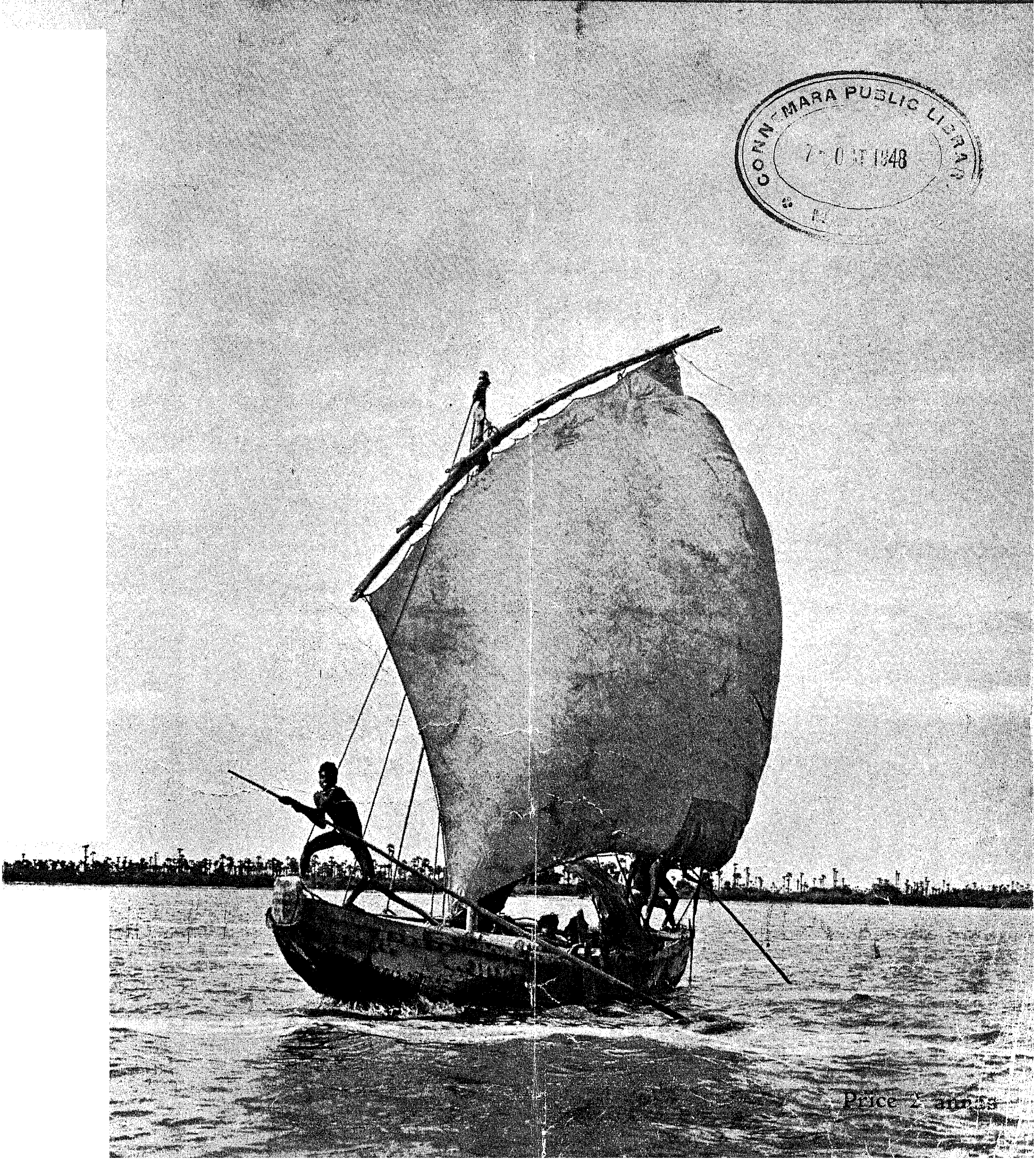
MADRAS INFORMATION

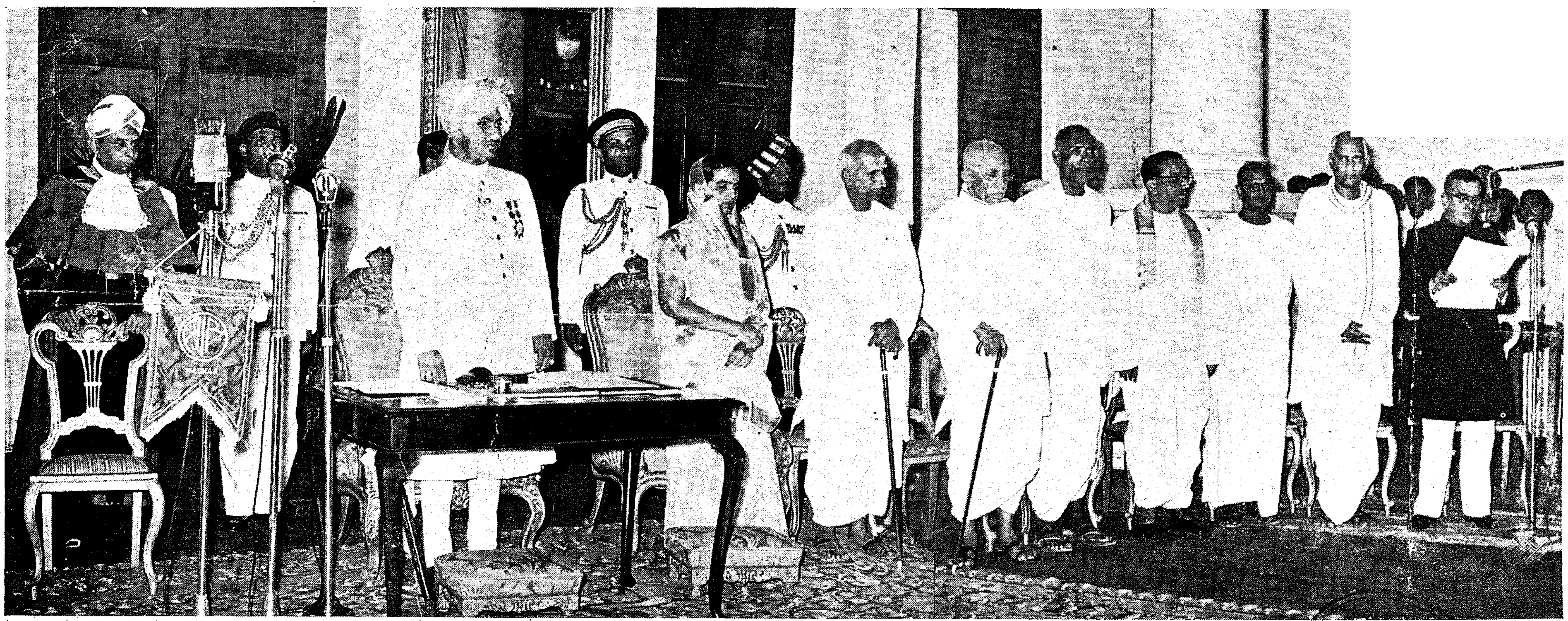
VOL. II MADRAS, 1st OCTOBER 1948 NO. 18



CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY 7 OCT 1948

Price 2 annas

INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE GOVERNOR



The Picture Shows—*His Excellency the Maharaja of Bhavnagar at the installation ceremony. The Chief Secretary Sri K. Ramunni Menon is reading the Warrant of Appointment.*

NOTICE

There will be no issue of the *Madras Information*, dated 15th October 1948, on account of Ayudha Puja Holidays. The next issue will be a combined Prohibition Number with increased pages and pictures.

Madras Information

Published every fortnight by the Director of Information and Publicity
Fort St. George

Vol. II, No. 18 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" October 1, 1948

Prohibition in the Province

On 2nd October 1948, prohibition will be extended to 8 more districts in this Province and Madras City thus resulting in the entire Province becoming dry. It is common knowledge that prohibition occupied a front place in the programme of Mahatma Gandhi and its introduction throughout India was a matter on which he was very keen. He was no more enthusiast for prohibition but one who had studied its full implications and assessed its vital importance in the scheme of Nation Building. "If I were appointed dictator for one hour for all-India," he said, "the first thing I would do would be to close without compensation all the liquor shops, destroy all the toddy palms such as I know in Gujarat and compel factory owners to produce human conditions for their workers and open refreshment and recreation rooms where these workmen would get innocent drinks and equally innocent amusements." The burning conviction disclosed by these words needs no emphasis. Nobody can deny the solicitude of the Mahatma for the welfare of the Indian masses and the considered view of such a personality admits of no doubt.

Nevertheless, critics are not wanting to condemn prohibition either as a needless measure or as something that is not practicable. They trot out one argument after another in support of their position. Some point out the case of America and say that where America has failed, India is not going to succeed. They forget the differences in the conditions in America and India. In America many drink while in India a few drink. In America drink is more or less a social habit with many people while it is not so in India. Drink in the western sense obtain in India only in places where there is heavy concentration of industrial labour, and this is a fact admitted even by westerners. The percentage of people in this country who drink is negligible. There is a stigma attaching to drink here. There is no such stigma in America or other western countries. The two great religions in India, Hinduism and Islam stand for abstinence from drink. In view of these factors, it cannot be difficult for prohibition to succeed in this country.

There is however one indispensable pre-requisite for the success of prohibition. It is public co-operation. Prohibition is a moral reform and no moral reform can succeed without public co-operation. It is a matter in which the violation of law does not affect individual interest but only the interest of the community as a whole. Responsibility therefore devolves on the whole community to see that prohibition meets with success. It has been recently pointed out in this connection that the law at the best can only drive the offence of drinking

IN THIS ISSUE

Prohibition Topics
News and Notes
Topics of the Day
Press Notes, Releases, etc.
Departments' Corner
Rural Topics
Special Articles
Agricultural Notes
Agriculture in other Countries
Delhi Diary
Other Provinces and States
Books and Publications

underground, and if it is to be exterminated, public co-operation becomes indispensable. Hence the importance of public co-operation. The justification for this co-operation will be obvious when one gets an idea of the extensive ravages of the drink evil.

Drink is most common among the lower classes of people. In this Province, the excise revenue is something roughly 18 crores and the bulk of this revenue is contributed by the poor people. An expenditure of 8 annas or one rupee a day may not be much for a middle class man or an upper class man. But a poor man in the lower strata of society cannot easily spare this money without sacrificing his vital comforts. In a survey conducted in Salem some years ago, it was estimated that more than 35 per cent of a poor man's income went for drinking, and this 35 per cent is at the cost of his necessaries of life. This is why students of social welfare assert that prohibition is a necessary step in raising the standard of living. The standard of living can be raised only by adding to the income and by eliminating unproductive expenditure. By prohibition it is intended to eliminate unproductive expenditure and to enable that amount to be diverted for more vital purposes. One modern writer has said that prohibition is not an isolated constructive measure but forms part and parcel of the programme for raising the standard of living in this country. It is in this light that we have to view prohibition. It is a great rejuvenating factor in the uplift of the masses. Much has often made of the loss of revenue consequent on prohibition. This loss is nothing compared to the gain that accrues from prohibition. India's Prime Minister has said more than once that the wealth of a country is in her manhood and womanhood. To conserve this wealth, one need not count the cost. The whole progress of a country depends upon that.

The country is now breathing fresh air and it is important that all obstacles in the way of the uplift of the common man is eliminated. Drink evil is one of the obstacles and the intention of prohibition is to eliminate that obstacle. It behoves the public to understand prohibition in its true perspective and willingly extend their hand of co-operation for its successful enforcement.

PROHIBITION TOPICS

The Problem of Liquor Control

The problem of Liquor Control is not easy to tackle with. There are certain inherent difficulties. This Province will become completely dry on 2nd of October 1948 and will thus establish a record. In this connection the following excerpt taken from the report on the enforcement of prohibition laws in U.S.A. will be of topical interest.

Laws against drunkness are to be found very generally in antiquity. But the economic organization of the ancient world did not bring about the conditions of production and distribution with which attempts to control the use of alcohol must now wrestle. In the modern world, commercialized production and distribution, especially of distilled spirits, called for legislative action early in the history of most of the modern nations. In England, what may fairly be regarded as restrictive, as distinguished from primarily economic legislation, begins in the fourteenth century. In the eighteenth century, following repeal of earlier restrictive statutes, the general use of distilled liquors called for legislation, and from that time there is a continuous history of legislative control in Great Britain. In Germany, sale of distilled liquor began to be regulated at the end of fifteenth century. In France, regulation as distinguished from taxing legislation begins in 1816. In America, the history of liquor control begins with colonial legislation as to sale to Indians and closing hours, followed by a resolution of the Continental Congress in 1777 against distilled liquor. Over one hundred and fifty years of experimenting with systems of restriction, through taxation and excise, closing hours, prohibition of selling to certain types of person, high licence, local option, state dispensaries, state prohibition, and finally national prohibition, have not disposed of the subject. It remains one of acrimonious debate, with the most zealous adherents of the latest solution compelled to admit grave difficulties and serious resulting abuses. The necessity of liquor control is universally admitted in civilized countries. But this necessity of control gives rise to a problem of how to bring it about which has vexed society for centuries and now gives concern in all lands and very likely will persist whatever regimes of regulation are set up.

To some extent the problem of liquor control is interwoven with the whole problem of the relation of an ordered society to the individual life. Much of the difficulty encountered by every system of control and much of

the difficulty encountered in enforcement of the National Prohibition Act is involved in all social controls through law. The National Prohibition Act has brought into sharp relief features of this wider problem which has not attracted general attention. But there are special and intrinsic difficulties in liquor control and particularly in a regime of absolute prohibition. Settled habits and social customs do not yield readily to legislative fiats. Lawmaking which seeks to overturn such habits and customs, even indirectly by cutting off the sources of satisfying them, necessarily approaches the limits of effective legal action. The long history of legislative liquor control is one of struggle against this inherent difficulty. It could not be expected that legislation seeking to make a whole people at one stroke into enforced total abstainers would escape it.

" Prohibition is above Party Politics "

Presiding over a meeting on the Independence Day, Mr. L. M. Patil, Minister for Excise and Reconstruction, called upon every citizen to make the Prohibition Programme a complete success.

" The work of Prohibition," the Minister said, " is above party politics, and so it is the duty of every one to co-operate with the Government in that work."

Why Prohibition has been launched in Bombay

Mr. G. D. Vartak, Minister for Local-Self Government opened a labour welfare centre at Paramati recently.

The .Centre is being run by the Poona District Prohibition Committee and Provides for indoor and outdoor games, amusement and recreation to agriculturists and labourers.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vartak said that Mhatma Gandhi had placed Prohibition very high in his programme of " Sarvodaya ". Agriculturists and labourers would not be happy unless they gave up liquor. The Congress Ministry, he added, was very anxious to see the people enjoy maximum happiness and that was why it had launched the Prohibition programme.

How does Prohibition help

Critics still ask whether it is worth-while to forego a big slice of revenue and to attempt what to them is not a practical and useful proposition. For the sake of these it is necessary to analyse in detail how prohibition is calculated to bring about the economic and social amelioration of the masses. The population of country falls into two distinct categories, namely, the classes and the masses. The latter forms the vast majority and their welfare is the measure of the general welfare of the country. Drink and drug evil is more widespread among them and it is this evil that prohibition is intended to eliminate and thereby to achieve their economic and social betterment. In a country like India where the masses are economically backward, such an ameliorative measure as prohibition, is a necessary plank in any nation-building programme.

Drink and drug habit is as old as society both in the East and the West; but efforts were made from time to time to control it in some manner or another with varying degrees of success.

In India, Manu, the great Law-giver, took up a stern attitude and sought to bring about the summary banishment of drink and drug evil. The birth of Buddhism with its austere tenets proved a deterrent factor in the spread of this evil. Later, Hindu kings also threw in their weight against it. Sri Sankaracharya was a stout protagonist of prohibition. Under Muslim rule a more or less similar attitude was taken. This tradition was continued under British administration. The principles of Abkari administration as laid down by the Secretary of States and accepted by the House of Commons in 1892 were :—

1. Any extension of the habit of drinking among the Indian population is to be discouraged.

2. The tax on spirits should be as high as may be possible without giving rise to illicit methods of making and selling liquors.

3. Consumption should be reduced to the minimum.

Notwithstanding these facts, drink and drug evil has assumed a proportion to-day which unless effectively checked would prejudicially affect national welfare to a serious extent. This fact is especially important at this juncture when India is on the threshold of independence.

Prohibition was tried in America and one author has summarized its results as follows : (1) Greetings from cheerful faces. (2) Greater harmony in houses. (3) Fewer strikes and fewer divorces. (4) Less discord between employers and employees. (5) More money in banks. (6) More luxuries. (7) Increase in church membership. (8) Fall in insolvency cases. It was also tried in Bhavanagar State and the State documents testify to the fact that " disorderly behaviour and crimes of violence due to drunkenness have almost completely disappeared and the moral and material conditions of the lower classes who used to waste all their earnings in drink have steadily improved." More or less the same results were achieved in some of the districts in this Province where prohibition was tried some years ago.

Now to the question as to how prohibition can assist economic and social betterment of the masses in this country. India is the poorest country in the world barring China. It has been said that the problem in India for the masses is not how to live well, but how to live at all. One-third of the population do not have a square meal a day. An economist has said: " Their (the masses) existence is a constant struggle with starvation ending too often in defeat." The standard of living is consequently miserably low. The average earning of an Indian is roughly two annas a day while it is more than three rupees in England. The average annual incomes in other countries as noted below are comparatively high :—

	RS.
U.S.A.	2,053
Germany	634
France	636
Japan	271

Roughly it has been calculated in the recent past that the average income in the United Kingdom is 13 times that of India and that in the United States more than 25 times.

The first step in national amelioration is therefore to raise the per capita income in order to enable the standard of living to be improved. This can be done both in a positive and negative way. The positive way is to increase the earning of the individual by constructive measures while the negative way is to eliminate unproductive expenditure so that the earnings are conserved and utilized to promote the real well-being of the individual. It is with the latter way that prohibition is primarily concerned. It seeks to eliminate the unproductive expenditure on drinks so that the amount thus released may be utilized to satisfy the legitimate wants of the individual. It may appear at first sight that the amount spent on drink is not much and its saving would not add much to material well-being. But to the lower classes, amongst whom the drink and drug evil is more rampant, expenditure on drink constitutes a fair percentage of their income. It has been found in Salem that on an average a drink addict spends 35 per cent of his daily income on liquor. Prohibition means at least the saving of this 35 per cent and this would go to satisfy his other legitimate wants, such as better food, clothing, etc., and thus enable him to improve his standard of living. The income of the poor classes is fluctuating and when a drink addict is left without cash for drink he goes borrowing. Drink has thus proved a cardinal cause for indebtedness in this country. Discussing this subject, the Royal Commission on Indian Labour observes : "There can be no doubt that a reduction in the consumption of liquor would increase the welfare and efficiency of the industrial worker. The tyranny of debt degrades the employees and impairs efficiency. Indeed, we believe that debt is one of the principal obstacles to efficiency because it destroys the incentive to effort." These words give an insight into the terrible havoc that drink habit does on the poor class of people. Prohibition must, therefore, be a godsend for them. Drink has equally serious effects on health. There is a consensus of opinion about the deleterious effects of drink. The chief wealth of a nation is its manpower and in this country our manpower has more than one weak spot. The physical efficiency of the Indian is very low compared with that of the inhabitants of other countries. The Indian industrial worker, according to the Royal Commission on Indian Labour, produces less per unit than the average worker in any of the countries claiming to rank as a leading industrial nation. Similarly, the outturn of the agriculturist is less than that in England, Russia, Australia and New Zealand. Sir M. Visveswarayya says that the earning power of a Jap is three times that of an Indian. Economists have classified population on the basis of vitality as high, medium and low. India comes in the last category. The widespread drink habit is a factor in this low vitality which in turn affects earning capacity. Low vitality also invites diseases and premature death. It has been estimated that the average deaths in this country from preventible diseases is six millions a year. The average span of life is 26·7 years as against 57·6 in England, 56·4 in United States of America, 49·04 in Germany and 44·5 in Japan. India takes the last place in this respect. So also in the case of death-rate which is abnormally high. It is 24·5 per thousand as gainst 12·5 in England, 16·3 in France, 11·1 in Germany, 11·3 in America and 18·17 in Japan. A high death-rate and shortness in the span of life militate against the economic progress of any country. The figures quoted above in respect of other countries which are economically more advanced lend support to this point. This state of affairs may be due to a variety of causes but it cannot be denied that the drink and drug habit has a detrimental effect on health and longevity. American experience of prohibition supports this viewpoint. The health of a nation is one of its main wealth and it is important that all factors adverse to the promotion of health are eliminated in order to ensure the country's progress. A recent author on India observes : "Until he (the villager) is given a healthier and stronger physique, a changed outlook in life and a broader education, the strength and urge to get out of the present rut of low standard will be wanting." So a healthier and stronger physique is a desideratum in India's prosperity and prohibition assists in achieving this by eliminating one of the potent causes of ill-health, namely, drink. Socially also prohibition is an incalculable blessing. The most obvious benefit is domestic happiness. This is borne out by the experience in Salem where there was a tangible increase in domestic happiness and social harmony under prohibition. The number of crimes also fell. This is important for the expenditure on litigation, both criminal and civil, is a severe drain on the country's national economy. It has been calculated that round about 70 million pounds a year is spent on litigation in this country. In the Madras Province, it has been calculated that one in every two hundred persons is involved in criminal litigation either directly or indirectly. With the fall in crimes which prohibition will bring about, there will be a marked fall in criminal litigation and the amount thus saved will be available for use to promote the larger interests of the country.

Thus the benefits of prohibition are manifold. Critics may say that social reform is outside the province of State action, but historical experience has shown that State action is a necessary driving force for social reform. The case of sati is a classic example. As a matter of fact, in a conservative country like India, social reform needs the impetus of State action and it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to co-operate with the State in such matters. Especially such public co-operation is necessary in regard to prohibition, for, without it, in abundant measure, it cannot be a success anywhere.

Wine . . . biteth like a serpent

Look not thou upon the wine when it is red,
When it giveth colour in the cup,
At the last in biteth like a serpent.
And stingeth like an adder,
Thine eyes shall behold strange things,
And thine heart shall utter forward things.

—*Bible.*

Results of Prohibition in C.P.

Reports from the districts having 'dry' areas indicate that prohibition has undoubtedly improved the moral, physical, social and economic conditions of ex-addicts. People have been benefited economically as the money spent on liquor is being now utilized on the necessaries of life. Prohibition has been an incalculable blessing, particularly to the working classes and the agriculturists. Many vices, including drinking brawls, have disappeared and the domestic life of the drinking classes has become easier and happier. The women folk particularly feel grateful to Government for this social reform. Prohibition has also arrested the spread of the drink evil among the younger generation. It is necessary, however, to stress the importance of sustained public interest and support in the cause of prohibition. Law with all its penalties and restrictions will only drive the evil underground unless backed by public opinion, and it is the duty of the public to carry on ceaseless propaganda to educate and convince addicts that what are apparently irksome restrictions are meant solely for their welfare.

Prohibition Staff College

The Hon'ble Dr. S. Gurubatham, Minister for Firka Development and Prohibition, declared open the Prohibition Staff College of the Government recently.

The college has a strength of 386 composed of 89 Sub-Inspectors, 152 Petty Officers and 125 guards. Besides lectures the students of the college will be given training in games and drill.

The training is now entrusted to a retired Police officer.

Declaring open the college, Dr. Gurubatham said that the occasion was a unique one and that the whole world would be looking to India for the success of this great experiment in putting down the drink evil. The American experiment in prohibition proved a failure due to corruption and boot-legging. They should try to avoid those two defects. He had visited Coimbatore and Salem to find out the difficulties in working out the prohibition scheme, and also to collect figures in working of the Act. While he got very encouraging reports and was satisfied with the results in those two districts, he found in some places in Salem that medical shops were issuing certificates to the people for purchase of brandy under the pretext of confinement and other excuses.

Prohibition work has got two aspects, preventive and ameliorative. The former was the harder part of the work. There was a saying that the more the law, the more the law-breakers. He would ask them to remember this aspect of their work and unless they realized their moral responsibility, prohibition would not be a success. It was very difficult to raise a man who had sunk to the lowest depths in society. They were building up the character of the people.

The Minister continued: "There is so much corruption in this country which has to be eradicated. It has penetrated into the depths of our national life. Unless character and integrity are developed, the independence of this country will not survive long. Therefore, it is the duty of every one of you to develop integrity, character and patriotism. For, this experiment depends a great deal on character and integrity for its success. I would, therefore, appeal to the people for their cooperation with the prohibition staff, and also appeal to every one of you to make prohibition a success. Unless there is a combined force of both officials and non-officials in the country, the evil of drink cannot be driven out of the Province.

A WORLD-WIDE FOE

"With a history beyond the grasp of mortals the drink curse stands today as the curse of the ages. Beneath the earth in their last sleep, a host of dumb witnesses bear testimony to the whole civilized world of the curse of alcohol. It has mastered the noblest minds, the bravest hearts and the greatest intellects. Warriors who have conquered the battle-field, statesmen who have guided the civilized nations, orators who have held us in awe, and men whose intellect have solved universal problems, leave a record stained by the most demoralizing power on earth.

"The centuries have rolled by, and the earth has claimed each succeeding generation: nations have come and gone: empires have risen and fallen, but the drink curse still remains.

"Today it threatens and defies the governments and civilized nations of the world, and by its power in the churches and politics it curtails every moral and political effort made for the welfare of the human race. It confronts the peoples of the earth as a world-wide foe, and the greatest, most practical and beneficial ideal of the twentieth century is the world-wide war to exterminate the traffic in intoxicants."

—*The Battle with Bacchus.*

Ameliorative Activities

Reports received from the prohibition districts show that ameliorative activities are receiving increasing attention at the hands of the authorities. The following is a brief summary of the reports. The reports relate mainly to the early part of August :—

Kurnool.—The grama sangams in five places conducted street-cleaning drives. Public reading of Ramayana was arranged in some places. One grama sangam has started a reading room and library. A night school was opened in one place. Sports took place as usual. Ex-addicts are making substantial savings as a result of prohibition. Tree planting day was observed as also thrift days.

North Arcot.—Rural sports took place as usual. Efforts are being made to start ex-addicts on poultry farming. A scheme of cattle breeding has also been evolved through the efforts of the Special Development Officer and the District Veterinary Officer.

Salem.—One village sangam has commenced construction of a school building at a cost of Rs. 2,000. Sports were conducted as usual.

Bellary.—Tournaments and other sports took place as usual. A number of villagers participated. Dramas were also enacted. A park was opened in one place and a radio was installed. Village sanitation day was celebrated in the place. Thrift campaign was inaugurated in some places. A rural exhibition was arranged in one place and a number of Government departments took part in it.

Tiruchirapalli.—The Collector opened a reading room in Musiri under the Firka Development Scheme. He also presided over a meeting arranged by the panchayat board. Hundi boxes were distributed by the Special Development Officer. Sports were also conducted. A rural exhibition was organized in one place in which several Government departments took part.

Grama sangams in many districts are doing useful work. Village amenities have been expanded in many places. These include opening of parks, installation of radios, starting of adult schools and sanitation campaigns.

Madura.—Six grama sangams and a firka association were formed. One grama sangam has resolved to construct a road culvert. Thrift days were celebrated. Two co-operative societies have decided to construct a village hall-cum-godown. Two night schools were also opened for adults. Street lighting has been arranged for in one place. Firka tournaments were conducted. A rural exhibition was also arranged. The number of ex-addicts who are benefiting as a result of prohibition is increasing.

Coimbatore.—The Collector visited a number of villages and addressed meetings on rural uplift.

Chittoor.—Rural games, bhajanas and thrift campaigns formed the main features of ameliorative activity. Street cleaning drives were inaugurated in some places. First-aid medicine chests were introduced in some villages. A library was opened in one place. An adult school and a community centre were opened in another. Thrift day celebrations were conducted in some places. A Jaggery Manufacturing Co-operative Society was organized in one place for ex-tappers. Grow More Trees and Grow More Green Manure campaigns were launched. six hundred and ten trees were planted and 21,700 seedlings were sown.

South Kanara.—A Rural Housing Scheme is under examination, and a Weavers' Co-operative Society has agreed to contribute a substantial amount for the scheme.

The Guild of Service conducted a fancy sale on 22nd August 1948.

Anantapur.—Inter-village tournments took place. Two libraries and five night schools were opened.

Malabar.—Thrift days were celebrated. In one place a reading room and a rural recreation club were declared open. In another place an adult education centre was opened. Bhajanas were conducted by a grama sangam.

Cuddapah.—A Harijan Land Colonization Society was formed.

Nilgiris.—Four grama sangams were formed. Ameliorative staff held sports and games in several villages. A drama was also staged. Street cleaning was organized in some places.

Nellore.—Thrift days were celebrated. Five grama sangams and a firka sangam were formed. A bommalattam demonstration was held in one place. A street drama and a burakatha were performed by Harijans in another place.

Tanjore.—Sports and physical activities were conducted. A public reading room and an adult night school were opened in one place. A milk supply co-operative society was started in another place. A drama was staged, and a sum of Rs. 3,500 was collected.

ON INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

"What should be the 'Acid test' to which restriction of alcoholic drinks should be submitted ? Is it not that any restriction or prohibition must increase the range of liberty in the family and in the community ? I purposely substitute these two nouns of multitude for the individual, because we have agreed already that the welfare and freedom to enjoy the life of the family and the community is more important than that of the individual. The compulsory prevention of cruelty fulfils this test : so likewise do compulsory elementary education and the prevention of child labour. A higher standard of future life with increase efficiency is obtained in these instances by immediate compulsion. So also is compulsory social insurance, the general justification lies in the reduction of the burden of the improvident by making the improvident share in it.

"In the protection of the community against disease, in the prevention of immorality, of accident, of dangers of traffic and of sophistications of food, the general good is now universally held to be preferable to the 'freedom' of action involved in the 'freedom' to be careless and fraudulent."

—SIR ARTHUR NEWSHOLME.

Prohibition and Counter Attraction

Prohibition is not merely a problem of replacing one kind of beverage with less injurious ones. One of the basic causes of the drink habit is traceable to environments. And if people are to be permanently alienated from spirituous liquors, their environments have to be definitely improved. This forms part of the constructive aspect of prohibition. This aspect were emphasised recently by His Excellency Sri C. Rajagopalachari in the course of a message to Sanjeevan in Bombay. His Excellency said in the course of the message :—

"As for abolition of drink, although I am a confirmed prohibitionist, I am equally convinced that it will not do to create a vacuum and retire from the scene. Those who have got used to spirituous liquor of any kind cannot bear the compulsory privation, ordained by State Prohibition without a suitable substitute. To replace wine, whisky or toddy by tea or the usual "soft" drinks is based on the fallacious notion that the problem is only a matter of selection of fluids.

Physiological thirst is best satisfied by a drink of water. But those who resort to arrack or country spirits or bottled liquor have a different kind of thirst. Their brain cells crave for joy which they cannot or do not know how to find in their own normal life. It is the duty of reformers to organise schemes of joy suitable to the large number of people at each level with whom they have to deal.

Something that can stimulate the nerve of joy would have to replace alcohol at such gatherings. It may be a drink or it may be a form of sport or some other occupation which would give a healthy opportunity for bringing out the capacity to enjoy human company.

To the workers in the factories, tea may give satisfaction in the middle of the day. But at the close of it to those who are really tired or unhappy and feel a craving for some kind of relief without being able to find it in their own inner spirit, any kind of preaching that tea is better than sharab makes no appeal. He feels that prohibition is another form of upper class cruelty.

We must devise an attractice mechanism for giving relief and joy suitable to the men's physical and intellectual conditions. I know the difficulties too well to think that this general advice will be of much use but I have stated the problem. To men who are physically tired at the end of the day, it is no use saying, play football and be happy; nor is it easy for reformers to understand and devise what will really amuse and entertain those who live very differently."

NEWS AND NOTES

Wise Counsel

Sound advice was given by the Premier of Madras while speaking sometime ago at the Conference of Municipal Chairm n. He dealt at length with what might be the ideal of Municipal administration, the need for disinterested service and the vast scope for voluntary efforts. The points contained in h's speech are of more than passing interest not only to rate payers or Municipal authorities but everybody in this country who is alive to his responsibilities to the State. In the course of the speech: the Premier said :

The ancients believed in self-Government through self-help; In public regulation of affairs through private regulation of conduct in the first instance. And as they perfected this technique of civic life, to solve social ills by tackling the individual, their problems, begun to dwindle in size and many solved themselves. Self-help did away with the need for "other help" to a large extent. Self-discipline made elaborate state discipline unnecessary. Charity as a Dharma eclipsed charity as a responsibility by the State.

The modern conception of life, does not attach sufficient importance to these values. There is a wrong emphasis on the duty of the individual to the civic body and the responsibility of the civic body to the individual. The citizen believes that his duty ends with paying taxes. If there is dirt in the streets, impurity in water and illiteracy, and poverty among the poor, he expects the civic authorities to find a remedy for these evils. The individual cannot be bothered with these. That is the attitude. It is not as if civic consciousness is lacking in him. It is the change in the emphasis, and the role.

What I plead, for therefore, is that these services now rendered by the civic bodies should be generously supplemented by the voluntary, and willing work of the people in the various spheres of civic activity, life education, public health and sanitation.

It should be the moral and religious duty of every educated man to teach at least ten others in his neighbourhood. From the passive role that the citizen plays to-day, he must turn into an active crusader against the environmental ills of Society in which he lives and has his being. Voluntary workers should form themselves into squads to remove ignorance, disease, squalor want and idleness. The service personnel that would be required to give a thorough cleansing to the land, and to give it a new life, and a place under the sun would be so enormous and the expenditure so colossal, that without such co-operation of the unpaid services of community minded citizens, I despair of any substantial progress in the near future.

I might mention in particular the problem of refuse and sewage disposal. This is not merely a question of sanitary improvement, but a great development project that aims at returning to the soil the fertility it daily loses, as organised sewage, and refuse disposal helps the growth of more fodder, the raising of better livestock and crops, better milk supply and eventually better citizens. It gives rise to a chain of industries and is a paying proposition. I feel that many municipalities, and panchayats can be run from the income of the sewage, and refuse disposal by preparing compost manure in proper form. It would also solve our food problem. It is for you to consider the alterations you require in the structure and power of municipal bodies demanded by the changing needs and conditions of the times.

But whatever altered structure you may have, whatever increase in the power you may gain, remember that ultimately power flows from service and

structure gains strength from purity of administration. Service and purity should be the watch-words of any disinterested public work.

In seeking for more power, I would like you to bear in mind the famous words of Lords Action, that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. It was to find a solution to the tyrannical use of centralised power that the democratic principle of de-centralisation through municipal institutions was enunciated. Devolution of power is the foundation of municipal civic life, and to the extent you succeeded in effecting further devolution, in your turn, will you have fulfilled the ideas of municipal life.

Remember, power, physical or moral is for distribution. Only local self-Government can attend to the immediate needs of the people. If you happen to acquire more power, makes a generous distribution of it to those men and organizations who seek to serve the community, without thought of their own profit.

We must infuse a sense of citizenship and good f llowship as well as a spirit of service among our people. After everything is said and done, we cannot escape from the basic truth pronounced by Plato centuries ago, that the best form of Government by the best men. May God grant you the wisdom to use your power always for the good of the people.

> Hearty repentance breaks the back of a guilt and leads the way to proper understanding.
>
> —MAHATMA GANDHI.

Self-sufficiency in Food

Unless more money was spent and more men were employed for the improvement and development of agriculture, India would continue to face uncertainties and put up with foreign dependence in a matter so vital as food, said Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, India's Food Minister, recently presiding over a conference of the Agriculture Ministers of the Provinces and States.

"Fullest use should be made of such non-official agencies and organizations as may be serviceable for the great task involved in an agricultural census. These agencies and organizations will be, and should be, our constant helpmates hereafter also in our annual programme of collecting accurate agricultural data all over the country," he added.

Referring to the five-year programme of the "Grow More Food" campaign started by the Central Government in 1947–48, the Agriculture Minister said: "Last year, a sum of Rs. 2 crores was sanctioned as grants and Rs. 1,36,00,000 as loans by the Central Government. The main common difficulties which have been experienced are the inadequacy of supply of coal, cement, iron and steel, fertilisers and machinery, apart from the delays caused in transport and in securing the sanction of the Central Government to provincial schemes."

With regard to the last-mentioned difficulty, the Minister hoped that the revised procedure would facilitate the quick disposal of provincial proposals. The transport difficulty might also progressively disappear. The non-availability, inadequate quantity of certain articles for which the country had to depend on foreign countries would continue to be an important obstacle in its progress for a considerable time.

The wisest plan seemed rather to be, while expecting an improvement in these supplies from abroad, to plan our food production largely on the basis of such means and methods as were open to us within our own country.

"I have no doubt that, with determined effort backed by adequate financial support and organizational effici ncy, India can before long free herself from anxiety in regard to food," he said.

"But to enable India to achieve this result, agriculture must be allowed to come into its own and receive the priority it deserves in our nation's plans. Agricultural wealth is the ba is of our industrial activity and national prosperity. Unless we spend more money and employ more man-power for the improvement and development of agriculture, we will continue, to face uncertainties and put up with foreign dependence in a matter so vital as food.

Mr. Jairamdas felt that even if the country had other difficulties and bottlenecks, a great deal was going to depend upon the man-power which the country could marshal for agricultural improvements.

"We must create a series of links between the headquarters of the Government Departments and the cultivator. Some work in this line, I know, has been done in one or two provinces, but it needs to be vastly and rapidly increased. We have, in the villages of this country, 15,000 co-operative societies with a working capital of over Rs. 30 crores. We should mobilise all this man-power and divert the main energies of these societies to the programme of food production."

The key to the agricultural progress in America and some other western countries, the Food Minister said, was not so much mechanisation or other modern methods of agriculture as widespread human agency working at the organizing of agricultural development.

Service of India means Service of Millions

The past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now. That future is not one of ease or resting but of incessant striving so that we might fulfil the pledges we have so often taken and the one we shall take to-day. The service of India means the service of millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity . . . And so we have to labour and to work and work hard to give reality to our dreams. Those dreams are not only for India, but they are also for the world, for all the nations and peoples are too closely knit together to-day for any one of them to imagine that it can live apart.

—PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

TOPICS OF THE DAY

Delhi Food Conference

Important resolutions were adapted at the Food Ministers' Conference held recently at New Delhi.

The following are some of the resolutions :—

As one of the major impediments to the satisfactory use of improved methods of agriculture or the utilization of the results of scientific researches is the smallness of the holdings, leading in turn to even the use of improved seeds or manures giving only inadequate profit, every step for consolidating the holdings or for forming joint units of cultivation should be pushed through with vigour.

As food production schemes can be adequately implemented only by harnessing non-official support and participation, (*a*) co-operative societies, panchayats or other rural development organizations should be set up in each province to assist the Government in its food production plans; and where such organizations exist they should be utilized; (*b*) similar suitable bodies should be set up at the taluk, district and provincial levels; (*c*) special officers should be appointed in the provinces and states for creating and strengthening such organizations and further increasing the utility of such organizations as exist; (*d*) ad hoc committees should be organized where necessary in the village areas, and groups of areas to be assigned to each organization.

While steps should be taken to place agricultural statistics on a sound basis, the following method should be followed in estimating the results of the Grow More Food Scheme :—

(1) the progress made in terms of the various items of work done should be indicated; (2) the additional yield resulting from the works should be ascertained by more than one method, and by means of (*a*) estimating the increase by one unit of each type of work, and calculation of the total increase by reference to the total number of work units of that type; (*b*) use of the random sampling method in crop cutting experiments; (*c*) test checks by Provincial and Central Government officers on the spot.

In view of the short supply of materials and machinery from abroad, and the inherent advantages in maximizing the use of indigenous resources in increasing food production, the following among other steps be intensified taking into consideration the local conditions :—

(*a*) The number of seed farms or agencies for seed production in each province and state should be increased so as to supply the entire cropped area with improved seed as early as possible.

(*b*) Special efforts should be made to frame and execute a comprehensive programme of urban and rural compost making and distribution.

(*c*) Each province and state should have special seed farms or other agencies for the production of green manure seeds, and a definite target of increase of the area to be covered by such seeds.

In view of the advantages of co-operative organization in furthering food production schemes—

(*a*) Each province and state should endeavour to increase the number of agricultural co-operative societies, which should be utilized to the maximum extent for purposes of food production; and

(*b*) Co-operative Conferences should be called in every province and state as frequently as possible with the object of framing and examining specific proposals for the utilization of co-operatives in increasing food production.

Being impressed with the need for ensuring and equitably distributing materials and machinery essential for food production, in short supply, the Conference recommends that—

(*a*) a Central pool be created of declared surpluses of seeds for food grains on suitable lines;

(*b*) the formation of the Provincial Resources Committees recommended by the Provincial Food Ministers' Conference held in April 1948 be accelerated, where they have not been formed already; and

(*c*) the purchase of imported machinery be centralized to the extent possible.

This Conference considers that with a view to securing optimum results from expenditure on Grow More Food Schemes—

(*a*) adequate technical and administrative staff to assist and inspect on the field the execution of food production schemes is of paramount importance; and

(*b*) this staff, both of the Central and Provincial Governments, should constantly tour the country and keep in touch with the progress of schemes.

That schemes for production of protective foods, such as fish in maritime provinces, should receive special consideration by the Central and the Provincial Governments; and efforts for increasing the supply of such foods should be intensified.

On the question of the World Census of Agriculture, the Conference recommended that—

(*a*) India should co-operate with the F.A.O. in organizing a Census of Agriculture and the occasion of this Census should be made use of to collect all the basic data in the field of agriculture. The various enquiries in connexion with the Census of Agriculture should be so planned as to provide, in a comprehensive manner, all the data that is required for formulating measures on agricultural development.

(*b*) In view of the very short time left for the technical planning of the Census and the setting up of the necessary administrative machinery, the Census should be held in the year July 1950—June 1951.

(*c*) As the Census and the improvements in the collection of agricultural statistics planned would necessitate a permanent increase in expenditure, the Government of India should share any extra expenditure that will be necessary on this account to the extent of 50 per cent for the first 5 years, on the condition that the work is continued permanently thereafter by the respective Governments at their own cost and requests from particular administrations for enhanced assistance for special reasons being examined on merits.

(*d*) The Census of Agriculture and the proposed improvements in Agricultural Statistics will call for adequately trained personnel at all levels. The Indian Council of Agriculture should therefore expand its existing facilities for training and organize additional courses, if necessary, specially adapted to the needs of different categories of staff.

The Task before Municipal Councils

Mr. Chandramouli's address at the Municipal Chairmen's Conference

In the course of his address at the recent Municipal Chairmen's Conference, Hon. Mr. Chandramouli stressed the vital responsibilities of municipal bodies.

Speaking the other day at Delhi to the Ministers for Local Administration assembled in Conference, our distinguished Prime Minister, Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, pointed out the supreme importance of efficient Local Self-Government in the evolution of real democracy. "Local Self-Government is and must be," he said, "the basis of any true system of democracy. We have got rather into the habit of thinking of democracy at the top and not so much below. Democracy at the top cannot be a success unless it is built on a democratic foundation." Democracy enables every citizen to take his due share in the Government of the country. In a democratic country every citizen must feel a certain sense of responsibility, each in his own field of work, however limited it may be, and take a real and genuine interest in his own town or village. This is where the importance of local Self-Government lies. In the words of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the Minister for Health in the Government of India, "a first-class local administration must really be the basis of universal good Government in the country." The independence which we have achieved after years of strenuous efforts and tremendous sacrifices will not avail ourselves much unless we use it for the establishment of a strong, pure and broad-based democratic Government which will have as its sole aim the good of every citizen in the country regardless of his caste, community, creed, status or intellectual attainment. The happiness of the people, the bringing about of conditions which will enable every citizen to raise to the highest that is in him, the provision of amenities which will conduce to comfortable living,—these must be the aim of all local self-government institutions in the country. People must not only have their basic civic needs met, but must also be given opportunities to find some pleasure in life. We must so administer our municipal councils and local boards that the citizens in our town and in our villages will become morally strong, spiritually great, physically fit and economically sound. The discussions in this Conference will be directed towards finding out the ways and means by which the local administrative units may be better enabled to carry out these functions, and achieve these objects. We shall examine the changes necessary in law and procedure in order to help elected representatives of the people in municipal councils and local boards to work to the best of their abilities and capacities for the happiness of the people.

A Retrospect

Local Administration is not new to India. From time immemorial, our country had popular elections and efficient civic administration. But, unfortunately when we were subjugated to foreign rule, the incentive for local administration was put down with a despotic hand and our well-organized and efficiently administered local institutions were destroyed; and people were made less and less responsible for the administration of their own affairs. The first local governing institutions under British Rule came into existence in our Province in 1850, when consultative committees were appointed in towns. Later under the reforms effected by Lord Ripon for the introduction of elective principle, financial independence and reduction of official control, the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1884, came into being. The progress of local self-governing institutions was reviewed by the Government of India from time to time, and finally in 1915, on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Decentralization which had gone into the subject of Local Self-Government in India, exhaustively. The result was the passing of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, in which the introduction of an elected majority and an elected Chairman, wide powers for levy of local taxes, control of staff and relaxation of the control of Collectors were the main features. In 1930, the Act was again amended when the system of nominations was altogether given up. In the light of the experience gained in working the Act of 1920, a further amendment was made in 1933 when the system of appointing Commissioners was introduced. This measure did not, at first, find favour with some municipal councils who regarded it as an inroad on their powers. But, the system has, on the whole, worked satisfactorily. Generally speaking, Commissioners have been doing useful work and have effected some improvement in the efficiency of the executive administration. But even so, we have to admit, however reluctantly, that, generally speaking, our local bodies have not yet reached that standard of efficiency, and freedom from corruption, which must be the goal of every one to attain, if the independence which we have obtained is to serve its worthy purpose. It may be that sometimes the low standard of administration and the lack of a sense of corporate responsibility have necessitated in the past the curtailment of the powers of municipal councils and governmental interference. We, as elected representatives of the people and men in charge of the civic administration of towns and cities in the Province, must see that we prove ourselves worthy of real self-Government.

Need for Co-operation

I must here say a word also about the essential need for close co-operation between the Executive Officers and the Council; and for harmony among every one connected with municipal administration. While I will not even for a moment suggest that you should tolerate laziness, inefficiency, undue self-esteem and corruption on the part of the Commissioners, Health Officers, Engineers and other paid staff, I would request you not to interfere with their executive administration or in matters pertaining to their control over their subordinate staff.

Government have always been anxious that in order to ensure a cordial relationship between the Chairman of the Municipal Council and the Commissioner there should be certain well-understood conventions in all matters which are likely to lead to friction in the administration. Harmony can be achieved only through mutual adjustments and a spirit of give-and-take—not by each insisting on his own dignity or his powers; or relying on rules and orders. If both the executive and the councillors realize that they are there for the common purpose of serving the people and work together in that spirit the people can be made more happy and more comfortable. This can be achieved only by co-operative and joint effort. With such co-operation and in such a joint effort there will be no room for difference of opinion or friction or disharmony.

Finance

The finance of most municipalities have, I know, been very seriously affected by the revision of the scales of pay of their staff, the payment of dearness allowance, and the recent enhancement of the allowance all caused by the rising cost of living. This serious depletion of your income was inevitable. I notice also an undue generosity on the part of municipal councils in making contributions to institutions and to outside funds and objects which however worthy are not really intended to be supported by public money such as you handle.

I also notice a tendency in all municipal councils generally to pay preferential attention to the more showy among the amenities they desire to provide than to the more useful ones: such for example as the opening of parks, the provision of mercury vapour lights, the putting up of a clock tower and such like. It will be wiser though less spectacular to provide suitable buildings for your schools, construct a culvert there, widen a narrow street corner here, and provide a few electric lights in the slums and cheries in your town. You must ensure the necessities and the ordinary amenities of urban life to the more obscure portions of the town and the poorer areas before going on to beautify your promenades, and your main thoroughfares. You should provide houses and tenements to the poorer classes, clear the slums, have drinking water and drainage facilities in the poorer quarters before you take up grand schemes for town development or an underground drainage scheme for the portions of the town inhabited by the wealthier classes. This will be more indicative of your real sympathy for the poorer and under-privileged among your citizens.

It is also well known that in many municipalities under-assessment of taxation is a serious evil and has seriously affected their financial position.

I am saying all this to impress upon you the need for conserving your financial resources, for avoiding wasteful expenditure and for concentrating on the essential needs before going in for luxuries.

The present policy of Government is to give more powers to municipal councils and more financial resources. The decentralization of powers and ensuring of local financial stability should be the aim and goal of a truly democratic government. Such decentralization and financial security enables both provincial Governments and Local Administrations to discharge their respective functions and duties properly and efficiently. But the mere handing over of power and of financial resources to any local institution will not and cannot by itself confer any benefits on the people. There must be men, of character and integrity, who can handle the powers and the finances thus handed over in such a selfless and wise manner that they will benefit all sections of the people, rich and poor, high and low, all alike.

I am confident that you will go back from this Conference with a determination that you will administer your respective municipalities in this noble and selfless spirit.

Fruit Growing

It is common knowledge that fruit is a protective food. Nutritional experts have prescribed a minimum consumption of fruits daily by everybody to ensure good health. At present the masses do not keep to this minimum. It is said that fruit growing has to be developed considerably if the minimum is to be made available. Fruit growing is therefore a national duty at this juncture. Sri V. K. Subramanya Mudaliyar, Deputy Director of Agriculture, in the course of a broadcast recently gave some useful facts about fruit growing. He said:

Those of you who had an opportunity to visit the Provincial Fruit Show held at the Government House on the Mount Road, Madras, from the 21st to 23rd May 1948 must have gained a glimpse of the rich and varied fruit wealth of South India. You must have also gathered at the same time the vast potentialities of this part of the country for extension and improvement of fruit industry. Those who were not privileged to witness that Show can yet find sufficient matter to give them an insight into our existing fruit resources and to the possibilities by perusing the show publications such as the Souvenir and the Guide, which are still available for sale at the Office of the Fruit Specialist, Chepauk, Madras.

The present talk is meant for those who have neither of the opportunities referred to above. It is aimed to tell the amateur and the professional fruit producer as well as the lover of fruit, which is synonymous with the general public, a few of the secrets for success in one of the most pleasurable and fascinating of the arts or avocations and yet one of the most remunerative, viz., fruit growing.

Fruits in the Province

Our province grows fruits of numerous kinds and innumerable varieties. One would be foolish to dwell on all or even the major aspects of culture of even a fraction of those appearing in the list of our cultivated fruits. I have, therefore, chosen three typical fruits for to-day's discussion—the mango, the citrus and the sapota. I shall endeavour to speak on some of their chief aspects of culture.

With an area of about 250,000 acres under mango and with over 300 varieties of this fruit under cultivation, this province can legitimately claim the premier rank in the Indian Union for the production of a wealth of mangoes of unequalled character and quality. We have luscious table mangoes, delectable juicy, types, sprightly pickle varieties and valuable off-season fruits. Yet paradoxically enough, we are far removed from the ideal mango. To breed a mango in which are combined all or most of the desirable characteristics is one of the goals of our research. To reduce the risks that are inherent in our present day unorganized and unscientific practices of mango culture, research is also indicated in several directions—in selecting the plants of the best pedigree, in choosing the optimum soil and environment for each variety, in the maintenance of the trees at minimum cost and yet with maximum profits.

In the production of citrus fruit also, Madras leads the rest of the country with an area of about 50,000 acres. In our Sathgudi orange we have perhaps the best flavoured orange of the country. Our limes provide the chief sinews for all the lime squash and lime juice cordial factories of the country. Our mandarin or loose jacket orange production is incomparably good in quality and is the cheapest to produce in the country, due to our characteristic rain-fed groves. Our lemons and pummeloes, though less known, have a great future, not only because of their quality and yielding capacities but also because of their other valuable characters such as precocity and freedom from diseases. Extension of citrus production, to secure standardized quality of a high order with the minimum production cost, should be the aim of all our work in these fruits, and it is these that are the guiding features of research projects at Kodur, Kallar and Wynaad, etc.

As a hardy fruit, sapota enjoys very great popularity in the province both in homeyards and in commercial orchards. The area on the aggregate may be less than 2,000 acres in the province, but for an easily perishable fruit with poor transportable qualities but with extremely high yielding propensities, the above area is but a poor index of the fruit's popularity or value. We have several choice varieties, differing in shape, size and eating quality. Further improvement seems to be delineating the optimum centres of production for each variety and the optimum stocks for budding or grafting. The devising of the most efficient and economic orchard practice is also a plank in the programme common to the sapota as for the citrus and the mango.

Past experience as well as research findings show that most of our failures in the field of fruit growing have so far been primarily due to the unsuitable plant material planted in our orchards. In one mango orchard, it has been found that as many as 95 per cent of the trees of two leading commercial varieties produced consistently poor or no crop during three out of the four years of study. The heavy fruiting trees in any of these four years did not exceed 2·6 per cent. These figures, which are believed to be typical of the commercial mango groves in most parts of the province, denote that our mango groves are most defectively stocked, and therefore the scope for enhancement of crop yield by a proper selection of plant material is very great. Almost the same feature, though to a lesser extent, characterises the citrus plantations. In sapotas, the yields are less varying between trees but the variation is not entirely absent and that for quality is sufficiently appreciable to cause concern.

The loss to fruit producers by the planting of varieties and kinds of fruits unsuited to the region or site also amounts to a huge figure annually in the province. There are several known instances of orchards planted to imported varieties or kinds of fruits, from which the owners have never reaped any fruits at any stage of the life of the plantations.

Roll of Agricultural Department

The department of Agriculture through its fruit section is in a position to offer advice to the producers as to the most suitable or profitable kinds and varieties of fruits to be grown under each of the diverse conditions prevailing in this province. It does not cost you anything to obtain such advice, and no responsibility is imposed on the seeker of such advice either.

The value of tree selection, being as important as the value of selection of variety or kind of fruit, cannot be ignored particularly in mangoes and citrus fruits, and possibly also in sapotas. To ensure profitable yields, the growers will, therefore, do well to purchase plants raised only from trees selected for high and regular yields, superior fruit quality and desirable tree vigour and health.

How to select a site and how to plant trees are questions that concern every grower at the very outset. The Department of Agriculture has dealt fully with those questions in separate publications, and copies of these are available for supply to any one interested in the subject.

Irrigation and manuring are two of the chief orchard practices on which a majority of the growers flounder. Our irrigation and manurial methods in relation to fruit trees have generally followed in the past certain arbitrary principles. For instance, it is usual for the growers to apply water and manure, as and when available, rather than to meet the tree requirements. Such a policy is fraught with disaster and explains why most of our orchards produce irregular yields. Intelligent manuring and irrigation are often the key-notes for success, and in the absence of such methods of fruit-growing is reduced to a gamble, in which few may succeed and most go to the wall. It is futile to attempt to give any hints in each of these subjects in the course of the present talk. Being complex, they warrant a more detailed treatment. I would suggest to the readers to read through the articles on these subjects in the latest Villagers' Guide and Calendar, copies of which are available at all offices of the Agricultural Department in the taluks, districts or at the office of the Director of Agriculture, Madras.

PRESS NOTES, RELEASES, ETC.

Corruption among Government Servants

During the month of April 1948, corruption among Government servants was brought to notice against 217 persons including those against whom proceedings were pending at the end of the previous month. Of these, 17 were let off as charges against them were not proved and proceedings against 181 were pending at the end of the month. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 19 persons and they were suitably punished. The names and designations of these persons and the punishment awarded to them are as follows :—

M. D. Venkatasubbiah, Senior Deputy Inspector of Schools, Madakasira (removed from service); S. A. Syed Ibrahim Saheb, Headmaster, Government Muslim High School, Madras (dismissed); Rangiah, Head constable, Nellore district, B. L. Raju, Constable, Nellore district, Chinnasami, Constable, North Arcot district, Appaswamy and Mayavan, Constables, South Arcot district, Mohammed Ebrahim and Govindarajan, Constables, Salem district (dismissed); Ghulam Abbas, Constable, Railway Police, Tiruchirappalli district (suspended for 15 days); Daniel Vedam, Subedar, Special Armed Police Units, Tiruchirappalli at Red Hills (discharged from service); N. Aravamudan, Assistant Secretary, Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies), Madras (dismissed); R. Krishnamurthi Rao, Rationing Officer, Pollachi, Coimbatore district (reverted to District Board Office, Coimbatore); T. K. Maboob Khan, Peter Fernando, Muthuswami Pillai, Shamsuddin and Gulam Dastagir, Chowkidars, Rationing Office, Tuticorin (services terminated); E. Thangavelu Pillai, permanent lower division clerk, Taluk Office, Tindivanam (compulsorily retired from service).

[September 1]

National Anthem and other Songs

In modification of all previous orders, the Government of Madras have directed that in public functions organized in schools, including school

day celebrations, meetings, etc., the National Anthem "Jana Gana Mana" should be sung only at the termination of the proceedings. Other songs such as "Vazhiya Senthamizh," "Vande Matharam," etc., may be sung before the National Anthem, but no song should be sung after it.

The singing of any particular prayer songs at the morning assembly in schools will not be compulsory, and it will be left to the discretion of the Headmaster of the school concerned.

[September 3]

Permits for Cement

The press statement regarding the transfer of control over cement to the Director of Controlled Commodities appears to have been misunderstood and there is an impression that in future permits for purchasing cement will be issued by the Director of Controlled Commodities and not by the Honorary Cement Controllers. This is not correct. There is no change in the procedure obtaining till now regarding the issue of permits, consequent on the transfer of the work of administration to the Director of Controlled Commodities. Permits will be issued as before by the Honorary Cement Controllers, Madras and Coimbatore, and Tahsildars, as the case may be. All applications for cement should therefore be made to the above officers and dealers as hitherto.

[September 3]

Corruption among Government Servants

During the month of May 1948 corruption among Government servants was brought to notice against 202 persons including those against whom proceedings were pending at the end of the previous month. Of these, 10 were let off as charges against them were not proved and proceedings against 171 were pending at the end of the month. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 21 persons and they were suitably punished. The names and designations of these persons and the punishment awarded to them are as follows :—

K. Sethu Rao, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Anantapur (dismissed); G. Peda Venkatareddi, Sub-Registrar, Razole, East Godavari district (dismissed); D. C. Mills, Clerk, Connemara Public Library, Madras (dismissed); Chadayan Kutty, Head Constable; Syed Ali Kutty, Khadar, Usman, Rama Krishna Nair and Ayamu, Police Constables of Malabar district, Venkatesa Naik, Venkayya, B. Chintayya and Venkataratnam, Police Constables of Guntur district (all dismissed); Chengadu, II grade Warden, Central Jail, Madura (dismissed); Subbaraya Udayan, acting Forest Guard (increment withheld for 3 years); Kotha Goundan, Reserve Watcher (leave on loss of pay); D. Rama Rao, permanent III grade draughtsman, Bezwada Circle, P.W.D. (compulsorily retired); M. Ayyaswamy, Petrol supervisor, A.R.O.'s Office, Coimbatore (reduced to the minimum pay); Paramananthan, Enquiry Officer, R.O.'s Office, Ooty (discharged); N. D. Karkada, Enquiry Officer, North Circle Rationing Office, Mangalore (discharged); J. Shanmugasundaram, Assistant Transport Officer, Coimbatore (discharged).

[September 8]

Fee Concessions

The Government have directed that for a period of ten years, beginning with 1948–49, full-fee concession should be granted to Harijan boys studying in classes I to V of secondary schools.

The fees already paid will not be refunded. The concession will be withheld from a pupil, who remains for more than one year in one and the same class, but will be revived on promotion to the higher class.

[September 13]

DEPARTMENTS' CORNER

Firka Development Department

During July Hon'ble Dr. S. Gurubatham took over charge of the Firka Development Department. According to the Hon'ble the Minister the plan for firka development should aim at raising the standard of living of the villagers and to bring about a self-contained, self-sufficient "Grama Rajyam." His idea is that each selected firka should be made a fully developed unit. All departments of the Government should concentrate their activities in the firka and their united efforts should be to make the firka an ideal one. The work of the Departments of Agriculture, Industries, Irrigation, Animal Husbandry, Highways, Electricity, Water-supply, Co-operation, etc, should be properly co-ordinated. The Sub-Committee appointed by the Provincial Firka Development Board has already drawn up a scheme for firka development. The scheme essentially aims at effecting a change in the psychology of the peasant in his social and personal habits without which it is impossible materially to improve his conditions of life. The Government are examining the plan drawn up by the Sub-Committee. According to the Hon'ble the Minister, Rural Reconstruction, should be neither purely psychological nor wholly material but should be a harmonious blending of the two Schemes in this regard are being worked out by the Government.

A synopsis of the important activities undertaken by the Firka Development staff in the mufassal is given below.

Yerragundapalem centre.—Attention was concentrated on village sanitation. The volunteers of the Sanitation Sangam, along with the Firka Development staff, swept the main streets and roads of Yerragundapalem. The sanitation party did scavenging work. A party of the Sanitation Sangam swept the Harijan quarters. About 10,000 yards of cloth was produced by self-spinners in this intensified Khadi area which has come up for registration in Centre Khadi office and an equal amount, if not more, was also produced in this area which has not come up for registration to the office. The Khadi staff, along with the Firka Development staff, are intensively carrying on propaganda work for the use of speed-wheel-charka and the use of medium-bow in carding. A special Veterinary Surgeon inoculated about 500 cocks and hens against *Ranikhat* disease in Yerragundapalem and Kothapalli. Cart tyres were distributed to the ryots.

Avanashi centre.—The Firka Development Department staff of this centre has visited 111 villages and 31 cheris during the month of June

1948 and has given talks on Sanitation, Elementary Education, etc.

Proddatur firka.—Basic education was introduced in three village schools in the firka in the month of July 1948.

Payyanur centre.—It has been proposed to start in this firka a joint Milk and Cattle Farm. Green manure plants, fruit-bearing trees and vegetable plants are being planted in the villages.

Veerapandi firka.—In July 1948 estimates were prepared for three road works amounting to Rs. 2,780 under Village Communications. Out of seven road works already sanctioned, six road works were executed, of which five works were completed, the total length of these five works being two miles five and a half furlongs, costing Rs. 3,420. A central library for the firka was opened by the Collector of Salem. One Charka Sangam was opened at Muduthuracherry with 14 members. Spinning classes were conducted in all the Charka Sangams on all Fridays. A conference of all the Headmasters of this firka was convened and they were given instructions to use pre-vocational period exclusively for spinning. They were instructed to have charts in every school to show the progress made during every week. During the period about 20 hanks of yarn were produced in the firka.

Kurnool firka.—One-bath room for Harijan women was constructed. The irrigation channel running through the main bazaar of Johrapuram village to the fields was repaired. One Central Library for the firka has been opened at Kallur and books are being distributed in all the villages. Two new Elementary Schools were opened at Pudur and Padidampadu villages. Six night schools for adult education were started. A Basic School at Gargeyapuram has been started. Two co-operative stores have been formed and registered in Kallur and in Johrapuram villages. Two hand-loom Weavers' Co-operative Societies were got registered in these villages. Charkas were obtained and distributed among the villagers in the firka.

Progress was made in respect of works under Village Communications and Rural Water-Supply. Cleaning campaigns, distribution of charkas, etc., were undertaken.

Tirumangalam firka.—A training camp for constructive workers was started at Nedumangalam.

Palladam firka.—In this firka, water table ranges from 30 feet to 50 feet. In many villages drinking water facilities for the public are very poor. The Firka Development Officer is tackling the problem by sinking wells in 19 villages. Three new roads have been formed in three villages. Two old roads have been repaired in the villages of Naranapuram and Sinnaigoundenapalayam. On the initiative of the Firka Development Staff, six new schools have been started by the Coimbatore District Board in this firka. Twenty-five night schools are working. The public are evincing keen interest in education and they have provided rent-free buildings in four villages for conducting schools. New school buildings are being built in three villages from public funds. New houses are being built for the Harijans of Rangasamudram and Semmipalaiyam as a preliminary step in solving the housing problem of the poor. A special committee has been constituted for raising funds for a High School Building and a Maternity Ward; and sums of Rs. 13,000 and Rs. 9,000 respectively have been collected in this regard.

Kanupur firka.—Five Sanitation Sangams have been started in five villages and Sanitation Squads formed. Intensive propaganda in regard to village sanitation is being carried on.

Hindupur firka.—By the joint efforts of the Firka Development Staff and some other prominent villagers, a free Boarding Home for the poor students was opened at Cholur on 5th July 1948.

Santhanuthalapadu firka.—The construction of the storage shed has been completed.

Kalasapakkam firka.—A central library has been opened and branch libraries in all the 30 villages of the firkas will be opened shortly.

Srikurmam.—A Co-operative Agriculturists' Association was formed; and it has taken 100 acres of cultivable land near Vomararilli village for lease. A model agricultural farm was started on 25th July 1948 and a demonstration was also made by using the tractor and other improved agricultural implements.

Intensive Khadi Scheme.—It has come to the notice of the Government that private producers, dealers and hawkers of Khadi have been exploiting the national sentiment in favour of Khadi by putting on market spurious varieties of Khadi for sale at exorbitant prices. The Government have, therefore, decided that all private producers, dealers and hawkers of Khadi except the All-India Spinners' Association's Production centres, Government Khadi Centres, and other organizations certified by the All-India Spinners' Association should leave the Khadi field for good and that the licences already issued in 1947 should not be renewed and those issued in 1948 should be cancelled. Government, have, however, allowed time till 31st December 1948 to the private producers, dealers and hawkers of Khadi, within which to wind up their business and to dispose of their existing stocks. The licensed producers and dealers have been allowed also to export their existing stocks or any part thereof to other provinces or states within the Indian Dominion where they have a ready market before 31st December 1948 on permits obtained from the Director of Controlled Commodities.

Highways Department in 1946-47

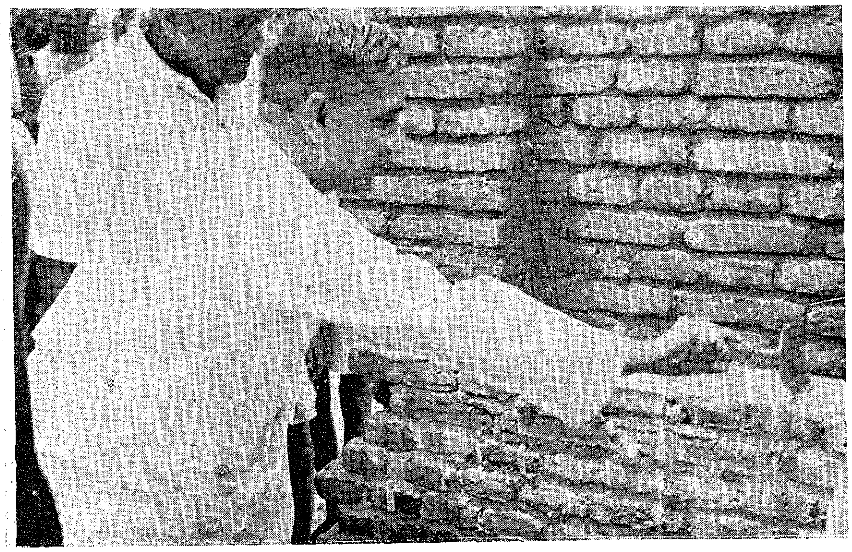
The following are the salient features of the administration of the Highways Department for 1946–47 :—

The Highways Department commenced to function as a separate department from 1st April 1946.

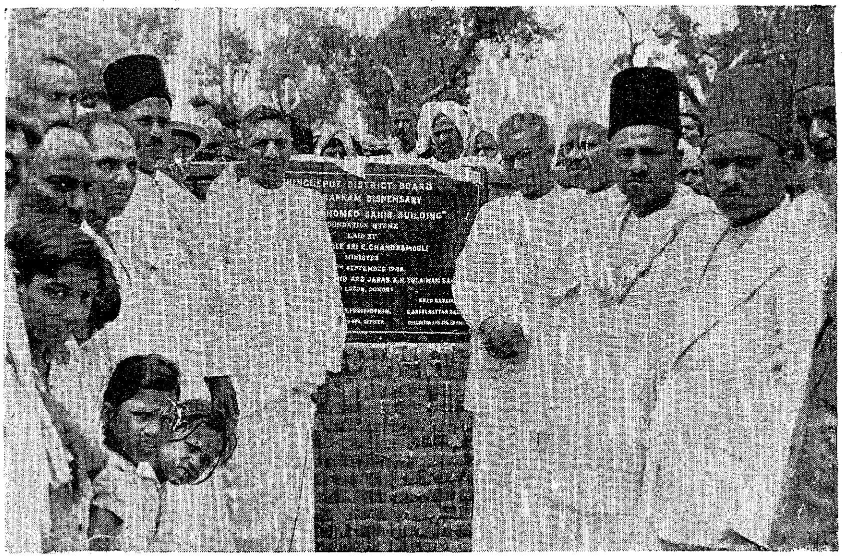
Road maintenance.—During the war years, all resources of men and materials were concentr ted on certain roads of military importance and other projects of a high priority. There was a general deterioration in the condition of the other roads. The five-year plan of post-war development of the province was originally drawn up on the expectation that an amount of Rs. 135 crores would be available for expenditure during the five years, after the termination of hostilities and that out of this, an amount of Rs. 27·77 crores should be allotted for road development. The provision for the province had to be curtailed to bring down the total expenditure to Rs. 80 crores. In making this revision, Government considered that priority should be given to schemes of economic development, which would increase the income of the people and their taxable capacity arising therefrom, and that schemes that provide for social amelioration and consequent heavy recurring expenditure will have to be comparatively slowed down. Hence the five-year programme for Rs. 27·77 crores required revision. Out of Rs. 25 crores allotted for works

MORE RURAL AMENITIES

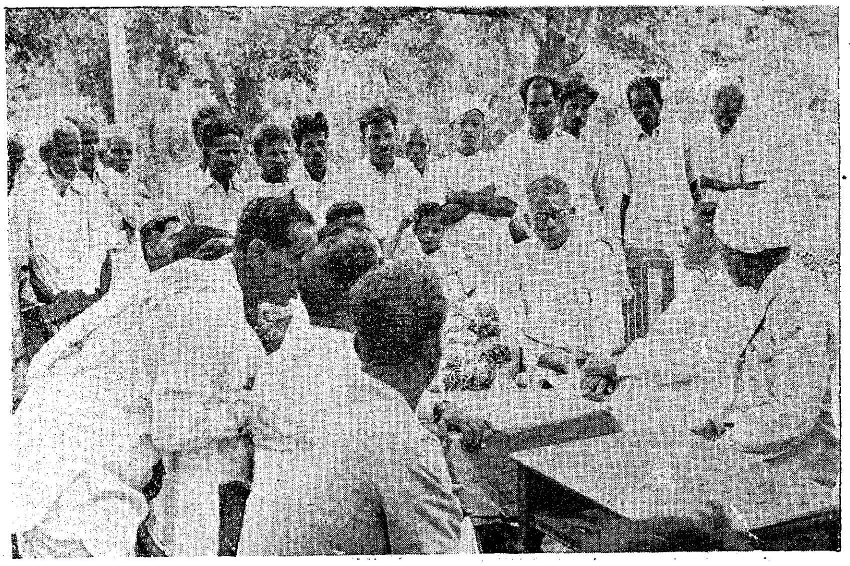
CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY
7 OCT 1948



Hon'ble Sri Chandramouli laid the foundation stone for a dispensary in Chingleput District

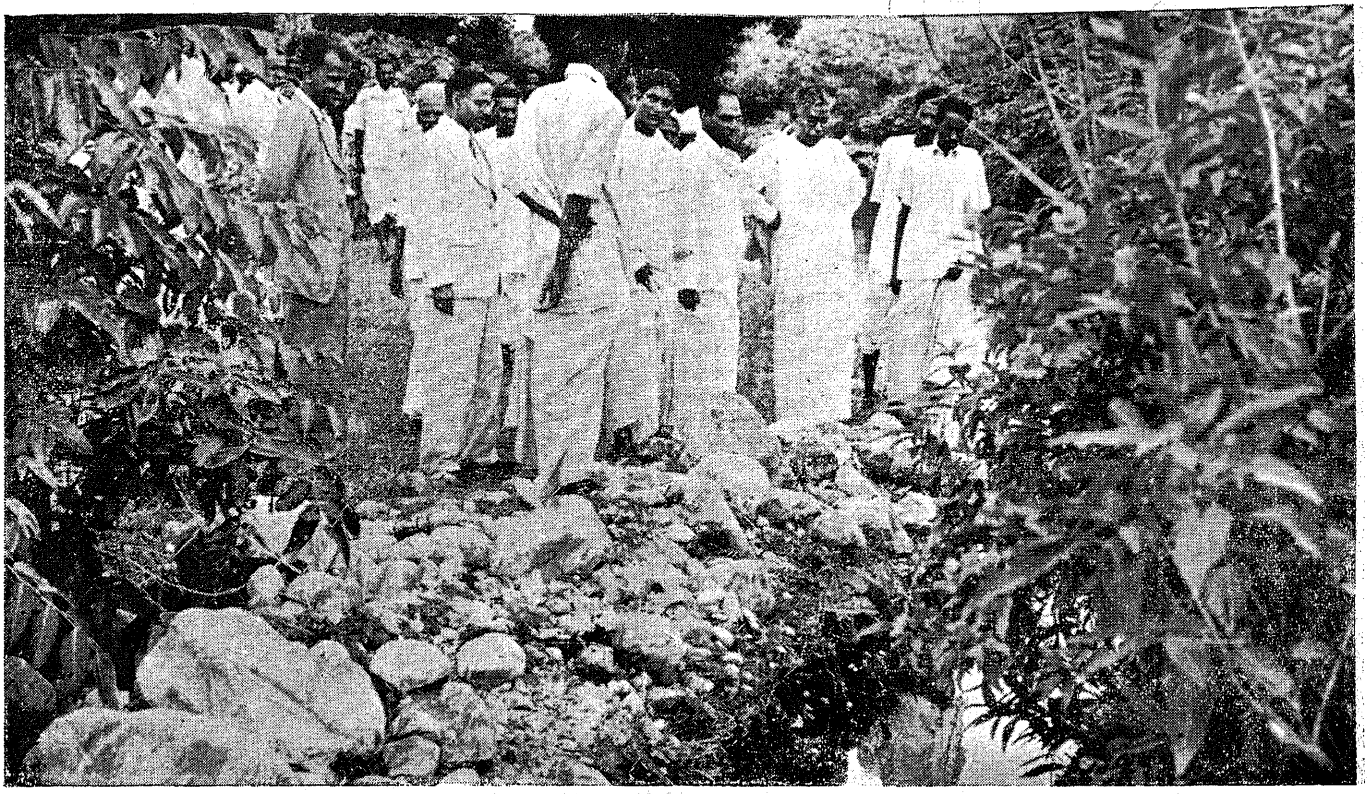


This photo was taken in connection with the foundation ceremony. Hon'ble Sri Bakthavatsalam is also seen in the picture



Discussing matters with Villagers

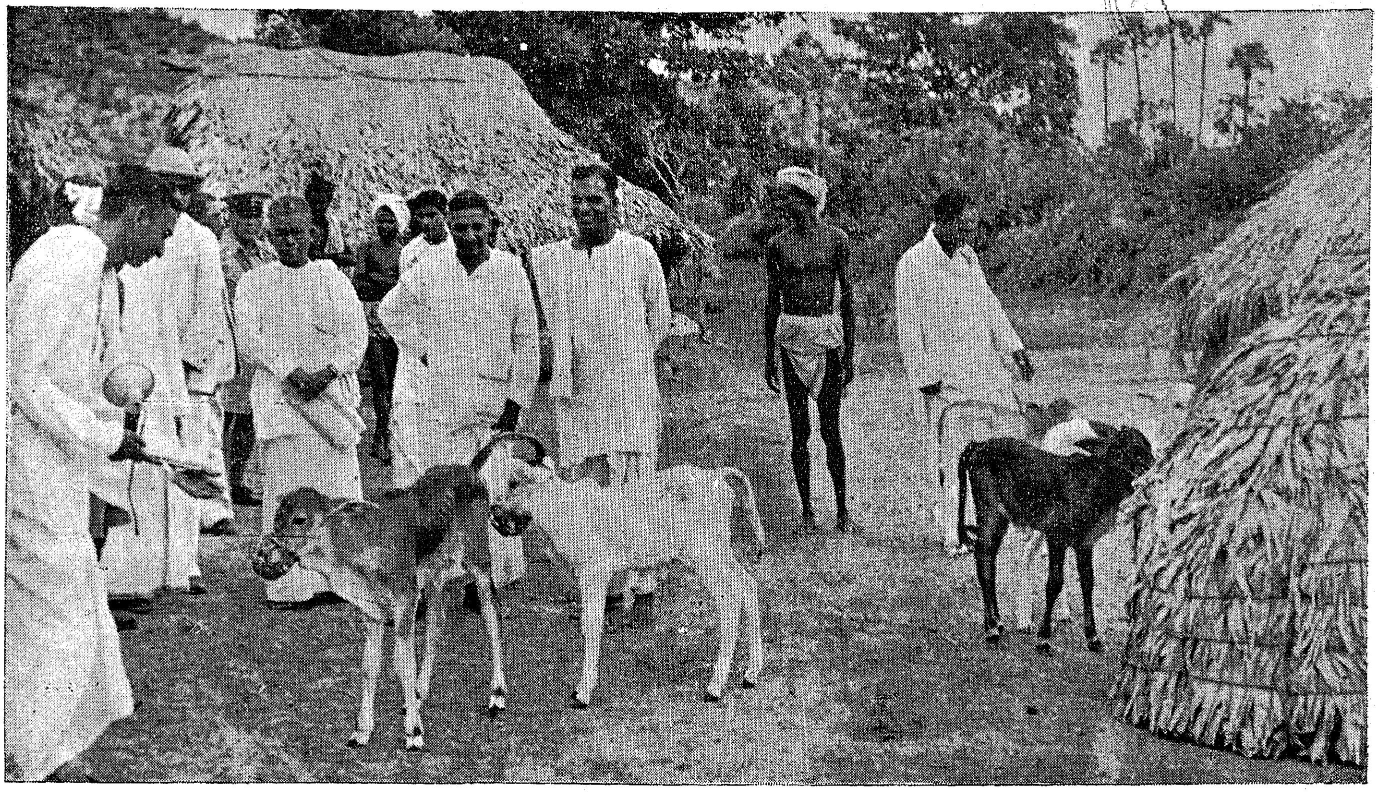
SPOTLIGHT ON RURAL UPLIFT



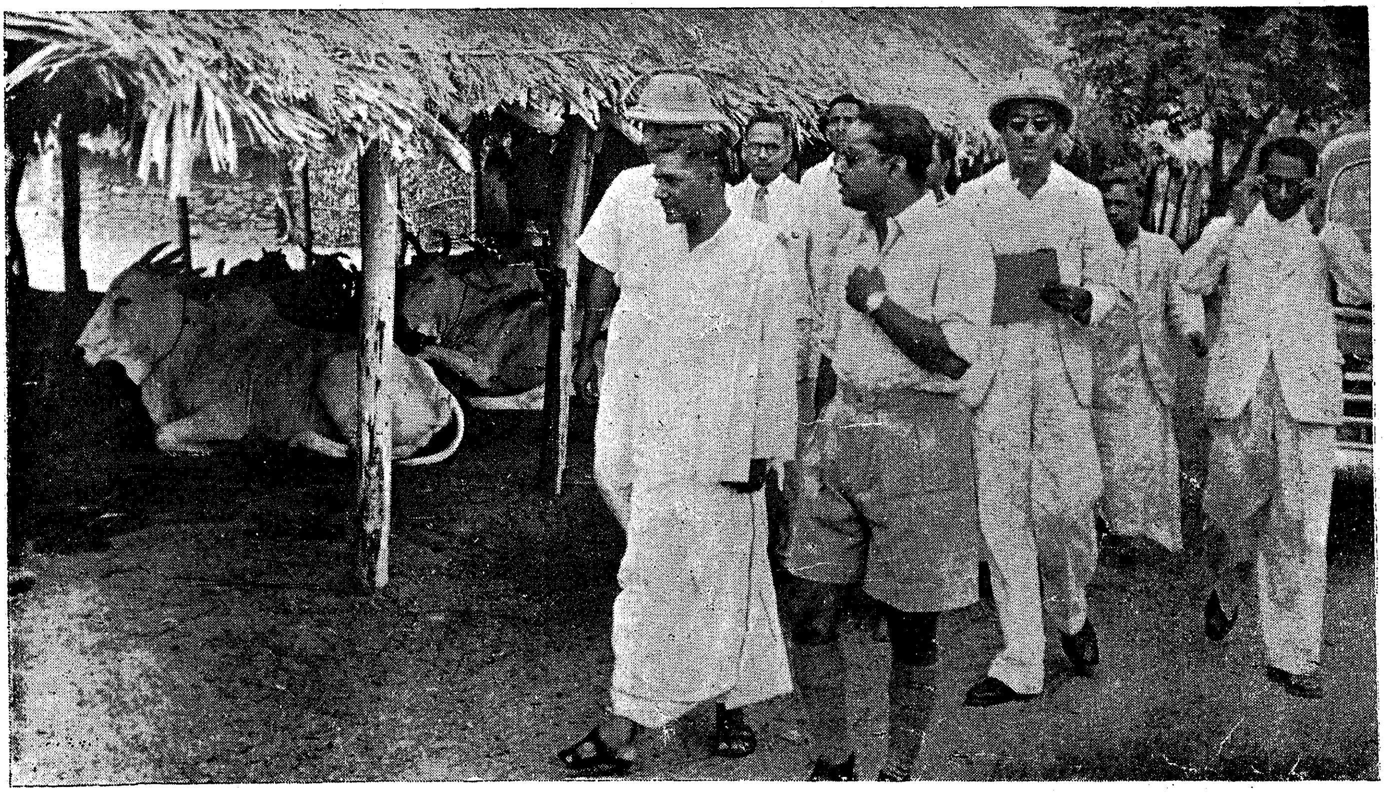
Hon'ble Sri Bakthavatsalam examining the question of utilization of water in a Forest area in Kambakkam in Chingleput District

Co-operative Dairy Farm at Kambakkam in Chingleput District

RURAL UPLIFT—MORE PICTURES

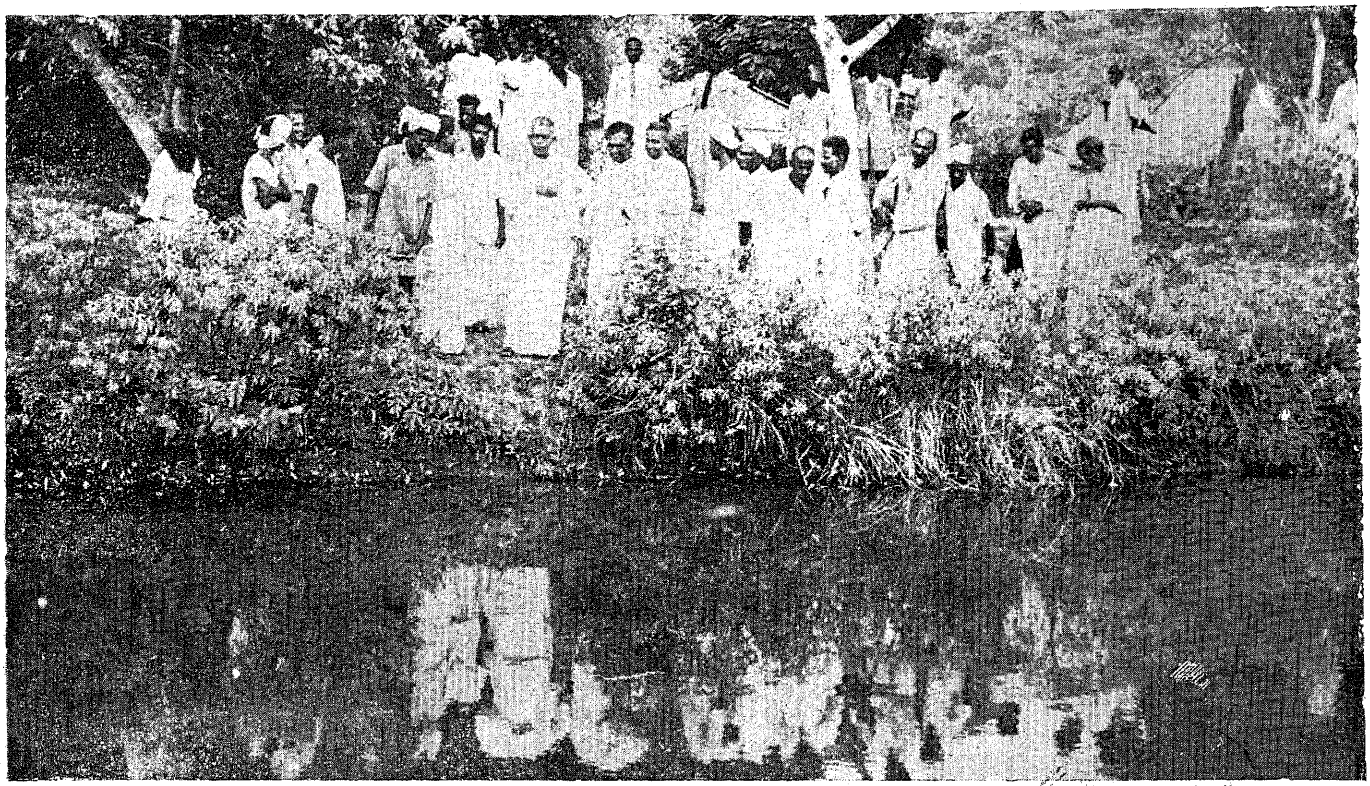


These calves are well cared for in the Dairy farm



Hon'ble Sri Chandramouli is watching with interest the cows in the farm

FISH IS A GOOD SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD



Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Inspecting the Government Fish Farm at Kambakkam in Chingleput District

This picture shows typical fishes in the farm

on national highways in this Province, Rs. 1·5 crores is proposed for major projects and Rs. 1·00 crore for other road works.

In view of the material modification of the original programme and final one being not yet settled, no appreciable progress in maintenance of national highways was possible during 1946–47. Rs. 32 lakhs were spent on important and urgent interim schemes. Fourteen thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight miles of important roads in the Province were maintained by the Highways Department, while 737 miles of roads were maintained by the Public Works Department, and 24,912 miles of roads of local importance remained under the control of the district boards and municipal councils in the Province.

Expenditure.—A total expenditure of Rs. 159·10 lakhs was incurred during the year on the maintenance of roads under Government, besides Rs. 26·64 lakhs on special war arrear renewals to the bad stretches. Owing to the high cost of materials and labour and the accumulated arrears in past maintenance, the condition of the roads could not be improved adequately.

Three hundred and twenty-nine estimates of the aggregate value of about Rs. 3,55,67,188 were dealt with in technical section during the year. The approximate number of other miscellaneous references, including tenders, and agreements dealt with, apart from the estimates specified above, for the year 1946–47 is 2,160.

Three hundred and ninety-nine estimates in all to an aggregate value of Rs. 87·75 lakhs in respect of capital works and 5,301 estimates in all to an aggregate value of Rs. 770·4 lakhs in respect of maintenance works were scrutinized during the year in the offices of the Divisional Engineers and Superintending Engineers. One thousand two hundred and fifty-three estimates for capital works aggregating to Rs. 65·2 lakhs and 10·313 estimates for maintenance works aggregating to Rs. 132·4 lakhs in respect of district board works were scrutinized in the offices of the Divisional Engineers and Superintending Engineers. The total expenditure on capital works in all the district boards amounted to Rs. 14·68 lakhs and that on maintenance works in all the district boards amounted to Rs. 77·82 lakhs. The total mileage of roads in charge of the department as on 31st March 1947 was 14,958 miles against 5,450 miles in charge of the communications branch of the Public Works Department on 31st March 1946.

Plans and estimates aggregating to the value of Rs. 23,73,450 for 30 major works on bridges were prepared during the year. Four other major works were investigated during the year.

Registration Department in 1947-48

The following are the salient features of the statistics of the Registration Department in the Madras Province for 1947–48:—

The number of district charges during the year under review was 29 and the number of District Registrars, including the post of Inspector of Registration Offices, was 32. The number of temporary sub-registry offices was 10, while the permanent sub-registry offices, including ex-officio, remained the same as at the close of the previous year, namely, 560. The number of permanent Sub-Registrars was 615, while the number of temporary Sub-Registrars rose from 4 to 14. The itinerary system of registry at Tangasseri in Tinnevelly district and Gudalur in the Nilgiris district was continued.

Surcharge stamp duty.—The amount of surcharge duty collected on certain transfers of immovable property, namely, sales, gifts or mortgage with possession during the official year 1947–48 was Rs. 1,78,22,966–15–0.

Registrations.—The number of registrations fell from 1,494,925 to 1,369,418 or by 8·39 per cent. The fall was due to the failure of the north-east monsoon, the intensification of the National Savings movement, the tendency among ryots not to part with their lands and the tightness of the money market. There was a decrease of 8·66 per cent in the compulsory registrations and 5·27 per cent in optional registrations. The aggregate value of registered documents decreased from Rs. 92·13 crores to Rs. 88·37 crores. Owing to the decrease in registrations, the income from fees for registering documents fell from Rs. 60·37 lakhs to Rs. 59·61 lakhs. The income under search fees and other receipts showed a rise of Rs. 0·37 lakh and Rs. 3·28 lakhs, respectively. Accordingly, the total income rose from Rs. 76·04 lakhs to Rs. 78·93 lakhs. The expenditure rose from Rs. 45·50 lakhs to Rs. 49·97 lakhs, owing to the revision of the salaries of non-gazetted officers from 1st January 1947. The surplus income over expenditure (including refunds but excluding pensionary charges and interest on capital outlay on buildings) was Rs. 28·87 lakhs.

Exemptions.—Scheduled classes, who are members of co-operative societies, were exempted from payment of registration fees for a further period of two years.

Women were permitted to be employed as clerks and typists in the Registrars' offices.

Labour Department

The Government have accepted the interim award of the Industrial Tribunal for Engineering firms and type-foundaries, in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Nataraja Engineering Works, Madras.

The Government have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal Coimbatore, in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Brooke Bond Tea Company, Limited, Coimbatore.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the managements of cinema theatres in Madura City to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication.

The Government have referred the disputes between the commercial Employees and managements of all commercial establishments in Fort Cochin to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication.

The Government have accepted the interim award of the Industrial Tribunal for Printing Press in the Province, in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Swarajya Press, Vijayawada.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the master-weavers of Tiruchirappalli to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Nellimarla Jute Mills Company, Limited, Nellimarla, Vizagapatam district, regarding the

closure of the mills, to the Industrial Tribunal, Vijayawada, for adjudication.

The Chittivalsa Jute Mills Company, Limited, Chittivalsa, Vizagapatam, which was closed on 28th July 1948 consequent on a rioting inside the mills was reopened on 23rd August 1948.

[2nd fortnight of August 1948.]

It (the root of new education) lies in the application of truth and love in every variety of human activity, whether in individual or a corporate one. The notion of education through handicraft rises from the contemplation of truth and love permeating life's activities. Love requires that true education should be accessible to all.

—MAHATMA GANDHI.

Resettlement and Employment

Dr. S. Gurubatham, Minister for Firka Development, Government of Madras, visited recently the Strathie Co-operative Engineering Workshops for ex-service-men and the Training Centre.

The Hon'ble Minister visited every section of the workshop and was particularly interested in the rice huller manufactured by the workshop. He discussed with the authorities the possibilities of introducing this simple, but, necessary machine into every household in the villages. He appreciated the skill and technique with which the articles of domestic utility were manufactured by these co-operative workshops.

RURAL TOPICS

Impediments to Agriculture

It is common knowledge that the subdivision of holdings is one of the obstacles in the way of the agriculture being remunerative in this country. It has been repeatedly stressed that unless the subdivision of holdings is minimized agriculture will continue to suffer from one of the grave handicaps which in recent times has proved a serious stumbling block. Subdivision means the distribution of land of a common ancestor among his successors-in-interest usually in accordance with the laws of inheritance. A man holding 15 acres and having five sons may be succeeded by these five sons each holding three acres. In the next generation this three-acre block will be further split according to the number of heirs and the process goes on like this as generations succeed each other. The subdivision of holdings creates a lot of difficulties for the agriculturist. It has been suggested that in order to remedy the subdivision of holdings co-operative farming is necessary.

Another factor that contributes to retard agriculture is fragmentation of holdings. This is distinct from subdivision and refers to the manner in which lands held by an individual are scattered in different parts of the villages in isolated plots. This also has to be checked in order to make agriculture a paying business. Co-operation is the best way of solving these two evils. Rightly has the Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture stressed "If co-operation fails there will fail the best hope of rural India." Legislation cannot completely wipe out these evils without the co-operation of agriculturists.

The next issue of Madras Information will be Prohibition number.

Cattle Wealth

The importance of animal husbandry in relation to agriculture is a point on which any amount of emphasis will not be excessive. United States Department of Agriculture Year Book for 1935 estimated the number of cattle in the world at 690 millions and according to the fourth census of live-stock held in 1935, the total cattle population in India is estimated at 215 millions. Of these 152 millions are located in British India and 38 millions in native states. India possesses one-third of the world cattle. The cattle wealth of the country has to be improved considerably. Though in point of actual strength, India takes the third place, the quality of cattle is poor and needs marked improvement. To this end, the Animal Husbandry Department has taken a number of measures. Public co-operation is essential in this as in every other nation building matter and the agriculturist has to realize that cattle constitute a handmaid of agriculture and where the cattle wealth is poor agricultural prosperity is bound to suffer.

Repeal of Prohibition in America

America has paid dearly for the repeal of the Prohibition Act. Some time ago 50 leading authorities in U.S.A. made a careful study of the effects of repeal and published their findings in two volumes. Their figures show that beverage liquor is responsible for 20 per cent of divorces in U.S.A. to-day, 25 per cent of insanity, 37 per cent of poverty, 47 per cent of child misery and 50 per cent of crime.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Agrarian Reforms and Parity Economy

By HON'BLE SRI O. P. RAMASAMI REDDIAR, *Premier of Madras*

Introduction

Agricultural reconstruction was never more urgent for India than to-day. The huge deficits in the country's food supplies, the scarcity of dollar needed to import food, the immense cost to the State of a system of subsidized food purchase and the large size of the population pursuing agriculture at a subsistence level are all factors that call for the postulation of an immediate and bold policy. And yet we find that it is being given a step-motherly treatment in all schemes of post-war reconstruction. Compared with the conferences, discussions out-pourings of literature and enactment of legislative measures undertaken for industrial reconstruction and trade revival, the interest and sympathy shown to agriculture is very little.

Time was when society revolved round land. All other forms of economic activity were subordinated to the basic pursuit of man, agriculture. Those were called the feudal times. That age gave place to an age of expanding commerce. The trader became all important. Then came the Industrial Revolution ushering in the captains of industry, and the imperialistic wars for colonial markets and raw materials. The next phase is perhaps the *yuga* of the bureaucrat. Already in Russia an army of technocrats are running a servile State.

Can this be not avoided and a balance kept between Agriculture, Trade, Industry and the Services? I have devoted considerable thought to this and have come to the conclusion that it is because we have failed to maintain a "balance of power" between these four branches of economic enterprises that many of the ills of present-day society have arisen. Lack of this balance has always led to exploitation and class struggle. In the feudal times, the feudal landowner exploited every other class. In the commercial era, the trader exploited both the tiller and the craftsman. In the industrial era, the trader by prudential alignment with the industrial magnate shares in the profits of a common exploitation of the agriculturist; and in all these phases of economic struggle, the services always flourished, serving whichever class was in power. Perhaps they are waiting for their chance to oust all else and sit in the seats of power. (That is Communism.)

Agriculture, an Exploited Industry

The argument for giving industry, trade and the services an ever-increasing attention in public life and for conceding them a lion's share of the national dividend has always been that only through their expansion can the surplus population in agriculture be absorbed and rural poverty overcome. A little analysis of history of events would show how this stock-in-trade theory is fallacious. The late Lord Stamp, a statistician of great eminence, once said that for the last 150 years the world has been fed with agricultural products below cost. The price of the raw material for the peasant is determined not by the cost of production in raising the produce and maintaining the agriculturist and his family in decent conditions of life, but by the price the industrialist wants to charge for the finished product and the amount of profit he chooses to have for himself. In the division of the national cake, the industrialist and those who align themselves with him like the trader and the services have the first word to say. What are left behind, the crumbs, are thrown to the agriculturist.

Industrialism

After all, has industrialism really brought the benefits which its advocates claim for it? I doubt whether a proper accounting has been done and a balance struck in terms of human welfare and not merely in money-income or even in goods and services. In such an accounting, the sufferings, the misery and the loss of life which are inflicted on millions of people by the series of wars, waged in the struggle for raw materials, have to be shown on the debit side. So too the squalor, disease and degradation that the slums of industrialism have brought in. The general restlessness, unemployment, insecurity and bitterness of class antagonism that permanently tend to impair human relationship are other items on the debit side of the balance-sheet. As against these, you have, on the credit side, the giant machines, the labour-saving devices, the motor cars, the aeroplanes, the plastic goods, the nylon silks and finally the atomic energy. Reckoned in terms of welfare, I doubt whether industrialism has really to show anything *net* to its credit. Even if there has been any improvement on the material side, there perhaps is none relatively as between the classes. The gap between them is widening day by day with grave portents for the future of society as a whole.

All this does not mean that I am against the establishment of key industries or that I am for a simple return to a peasant economy run on primitive lines. That would be a negation of the achievement of science and human progress. I am only anxious to see whether the benefits of science, instead of leading to increasing rift between different groups in the society, cannot be so harnessed that an ordered society with harmonious relationship between the different groups cannot be established; whether, the present system based on the supremacy of one group over the other, cannot give place to one based on equality of enterprises and equal distribution of the national dividend; whether money economics cannot give place to welfare economics.

Gandhian Creed

Mahatma Gandhi held that such a society is possible; and herein lies his greatest contribution as a revolutionary thinker. Far from being a set of reactionary doctrines, the Gandhian economics pointed out a new approach and a new way of life in which each economic group in the society works and has its being not for its own elevation, but for the good of the society as a whole, thus eliminating class antagonism and worldwide wars.

Parity Economy

To bring about such a society, we must reach the roots of the problem and see how the basic industry, namely, agriculture can be improved. To-day, it is run on primitive lines. The large mass of uneconomic, fragmented dwarf holdings have no rational basis for existence. The ignorance, the illiteracy and the insecurity of the peasant are a permanent source of menace to efficient agriculture. The pressure of population on land, the under-employment and the unemployment it brings, the vicissitudes of nature, and the

risks which agriculture is heir to cannot be tolerated in any society based on justice and equality of enterprises. To me it appears that the way out of this is not only decentralization of industries and a planned reversal of the present trend towards an unhealthy urbanization, but also the establishment of a Parity Economy. By Parity Economy, I do not mean that the percentage of population engaged in the primary, secondary and tertiary industries should be tending to parity. I understand by this phrase that the balance of advantages accruing from these three different occupations must have parity. At present, the remuneration for manufacture, commerce and services far excels that for agriculture. All these three industries are nothing but the successive three stages of the complicated process of producing the finished goods to satisfy the fastidious taste of the modern civilized man. If this is true, what justification is there for manufacture or commerce to appropriate more profits than agriculture ? Apart from justice, where is the incentive to the agriculturist ? So, in the parity economy of my conception, the principle of equality of enterprises will operate with equal profits for all occupations.

Co-operative Commonwealth

How is this parity economy based on equality of enterprise to be brought about ? I look to co-operation. Co-operation, I am aware, has not been much of a success in India so far. Its achievements as compared with joint stock enterprising has been insignificant. This is because it relies too much on human goodness and too little on man's economic instincts. When Sir Frederick Nicholson said at the end of the last century "Find Raiffeisen", he was laying the foundations of a co-operative movement based on sheer idealism. What is wanted, however, is a form of co-operative enterprise in which the economic instincts of the individual has sufficient scope in the attainment of the common good. In other words, it has to be a judicious combination of the best elements of joint stock commercialism and co-operative idealism. The theory of 'one man, one vote' has to give place to a theory based on the individual's contribution to the common enterprise, whether it be in the form of capital, or work units. Unlimited liability should give place to limited liability.

Secondly, co-operation must not hereafter solely depend on voluntary principles for its growth. To the orthodox co-operators, even the slightest compulsion is anathema ; but without some sort of compulsion the co-operative movement in a period of nearly half a century has not touched beyond the fringe of the rural problems. What has been successful in Germany and Denmark need not be equally successful in our soil. If 45 years' of experience of the movement has to teach us anything, it is this : that some modification of its pristine principles are necessary. Whatever be the objective of the co-operative society, whether it be supply of credit, marketing facilities, consumers goods, thrift or better living, all villagers must be compelled to join the society. Only then, will co-operation get a fair trial and sure chance of success. The carrot as well as the stick will be required to bring about the maximum results.

I look forward to a society in which every sphere of human activity will be brought within the beneficient influence of the co-operative method of doing things. The ideal, towards which reforms should be directed, must be a co-operative commonwealth. In it, every village or group of villages will have a multi-purpose co-operative society catering for all the needs of the villages. It will supply every villager and every pesant his necessaries of life like kerosene, salt and cloth. It will supply him with improved implements of cultivation, manures and fertilizers and pure seeds. It will help him with tractors and threshers, if necessary. It will give him loans to initiate agricultural operations in the sowing season and it will realize the loans at the harvesting season. To this society will the peasant bring his surplus grains and other products to be sold. There will be a grain bank attached to each of these societies which will serve three great purposes : firstly, by choosing the correct time to sell and the proper channel of the co-operative marketing agency, it will realize the best price to the agriculturist for the grains he deposits with the grain bank. Secondly, it will also serve to build up a buffer stock to stave off food crisis in the region in which it is located. Thirdly, it will also serve to regulate prices of agricultural commodities by its capacity to absorb all superfluous stocks without allowing them to force down the prices.

Agro-Industries

Along with the agricultural co-operative societies, must be established suitable agro-industries with the object of giving full employment to the villagers. The neglect of the agro-industries has been one of the major causes of rural impoverishment. A scientific planning and development of suitable agro-industries would provide the agriculturists with both employment and profit. Instead of exporting abroad or to industrial centres, agricultural products in the raw, most of them could well be exported in a semi-manufactured state. Sugarcane may be crushed and converted into jaggery ; oil seeds may be pressed into oil and oil-cakes ; raw cotton may be ginned and so on. The diversity of Indian agricultural products affords a wide scope for the development of a multitude of agro-industries. They must be organized on co-operative lines and dovetailed in to the already envisaged co-operative framework. Apart from them, subsidiary industries manufacturing finished consumption goods like mats, rattan baskets and furniture, canned fruit, leather goods, bottons, etc., must also be set up on co-operative lines. The industrial co-operatives in various localities may be affiliated to a central marketing organization. In each locality, the agricultural and industrial co-operatives should inculcate and develop the habits of thrift by deducting a small percentage of the sale price of goods sold through their help and accumulate this in a fund that may be called "Revolving Fund." This "Revolving Fund" is bound to grow snow-ball fashion as the two types of societies begin to hum with activity. In due course, the Fund will prove to be the keystone of an ever-expanding economic edifice.

The co-operative movement can manifest itself in hundred and one forms ; the society may undertake consolidation of holding and finally introduce universal co-operative farming ; the society may have a branch to provide suitable subsidiary occupations to agriculturists. It is in this context that the usefulness of decentralization of industries, supply of cheap electricity, availability of easy marketing facilities, and technological improvements can be properly appreciated. It can be utilized as the agency for silt clearance, canal-digging, sylviculture, laying out roads, construction of schools, and other public and private buildings. Thus the co-operative commonwealth will usher in an epoch of prosperity and self-reliance to the villagers. However, this state of affairs cannot be brought into existence overnight ; it will take time and has to be attained by stages.

Scope for Private Enterprise

Until then, the rural economy of India cannot be allowed to stay put.

at miserable level. If it is not possible to bring about a co-operative commonwealth in a single sweep for some time, private enterprise will have to be allowed a fair scope to increase agricultural output and initiate new lines of activity, and such agrarian reforms necessary to attain these objectives in the near future should be thought of and implemented without delay.

Before detailing the main lines on which reforms are to be effected and the measures necessary to carry them out, I should like to sound a note of warning regarding the method of approach to the problem. Ours is a vast sub-continent and conditions regarding tenure, rents, yield, agricultural practices, facilities and relationships vary widely not only from province to province, but also from district to district and sometimes even from village to village. While this diversity should not baffle us and should certainly not prevent us from laying down sound principles and policies of a fundamental character, it should make us beware of enacting steam-roller statutes and patent remedies as though the country is one uniform tract and only one set of conditions prevail everywhere; nor should we be led away purely by what is done in Europe, America or elsewhere and try to copy them here irrespective of their suitability to the conditions of the differing tracts of the country although the practices and polices of other countries should be a valuable guide to our deliberations. With these brief remarks, I pass on to consider in detail the urgent measures of agrarian reform that should engage our attention here and now.

Consolidation of Holdings

One of the foremost planks in the programme of land reform, I consider, should be the consolidation of holdings. The high degree of subdivision and fragmentation that exists in Madras Province and the pace at which it grows from year to year can be seen from the detailed statistics appended. The average cultivated area per head of agriculturist is only about 0·86 acre and for a family about 5·29 acres. Over 50 per cent of families own less than 2 acres, 30 per cent between 2 and 5 acres, 7 per cent between 5 and 10 acres, while those who own above 10 acres are hardly over 10 per cent. The pressure of population on land, the law of inheritance, the absence of subsidiary occupations, and false social values attached to possession of land—have all tended to bring about this continuous morcellement; and as if these are not enough, comes the latest social legislation granting shares in the property to daughters in Hindu families. Let women by all means get the rights that are their due; but something must also be done to remedy the economic effects of such social legislation. We in Madras have tried the conventional co-operation; but all that we have been able to achieve was to bring about 20 societies in a period of ten years and consolidate an area of 1,463 acres. Two things can be thought of in this connexion: firstly, compulsory consolidation of holdings through an appropriate agency, and secondly, an Impartible Holdings Act which would prevent the splitting of fields below a certain extent. Both these things are engaging our attention and very soon we hope to place the necessary legislation on the anvil; but the solution is not complete unless we simultaneously take adequate measures to absorb the population that would be displaced by this reform by starting rural industries.

Economic and Maximum Holding

The question has been raised, what should be the size of an economic holding and of the maximum holding. I have often noticed vague ideas and standardized notions prevailing in this sphere, as though agricultural conditions in our fertile deltas of Tanjore and Godavari are analogous to those in the arid tracts of Rajaputana. The Economic Programme Committee have clearly expressed the view that for the maintenance of a fair standard of living, an average family should be able to get at least Rs. 100 per mensem. It is on this basis that the size of an economic holding should be determined. Calculated this way, an economic holding may be 20 acres in the case of wet land, 10 acres in the case of garden land and 30 acres in the case of dry land. This, again, is a broad estimate. Similarly in fixing the maximum land a person may own, it is but fair and equitable to compare his income with that of the industrialist. If the latter is allowed to enjoy an income of Rs. 4,000 there is no reason why a landholder should not also be allowed to have so much of land as would yield similar income. The upper limit of income for the agriculturist must be the same as for the trader or the industrialist and the area of land a person may own must be fixed accordingly. In the case of all those landholdings exceeding the maximum size thus fixed, the surplus may be acquired at market price for the purpose of redistribution.

Tenures

Next come up for consideration the condition of the tenant, the rent he pays and his relationship with the landlord on the one hand and the worker on the other. In Madras, thanks to the far-sightedness of that benevolent statesman, Sir Thomas Munro, 75,604 square miles out of a total extent of 125,829 square miles are under ryotwari tenure for nearly a century and a half. The wide distributism that is implied in the ryotwari system has not permitted the growth in this Province of the evils usually associated with absentee landlordism—extortionate rent rates and insecurity of lease deeds. Nor has there grown separate classes are castes called agricultural and non-agricultural. All communities possess land and all take to agriculture without any stigma attached to the avocation. Nearly 60 per cent cultivate their own lands; and another 15 per cent consists of small holders who cultivate lands of others to supplement their income. Landless tenants and non-cultivating landlords constitute only 14 per cent each of the agricultural population. Even in the case of the "non-cultivating" classes, all that they desist from is hard and manual labour. Often their directing hand is felt on the cultivation process. An elaborate enquiry conducted into the conditions of over 4,000 villages in the Province shows that the majority of land sales in recent years has been to agriculturists only. The need, therefore, for restrictive measures like the Land Alienation Act on the Punjab model is not felt in Madras.

Consequently, the antagonism and bitterness that mar the agricultural relationship between the landlord and the tenant elsewhere have not been conspicuous in our Province so far, except in Malabar and in zamindari areas. In Malabar, the interests in land are so many and so complex that agricultural relationship began to be regulated by legislation from 1887. While the tenant has been protected against arbitrary eviction and high rents, the landlord is protected against rapid exhaustion of the soil. However it has been felt that an even greatest measure of fixity of tenure and fairer rents should be given to the Malabar tenant and a comprehensive measure of legislation is under active consideration.

In zamindar i areas, however, the problem is much more complex. Although the area covered by this tenure including whole inams is roughly one-fourth of the total (being 33,077 square miles out of a total of 125,828 square

miles) and although sub-infeudation has not gone on here to the extent of bringing about 17 intermediaries between the tiller and the landlord as in some other parts of India, conditions regarding fixity of tenure, fairness of rents and freedom of sale need very much to be improved. Successive attempts at statutory regulation during the last forty years have only confirmed that the system is very much of an anomaly and that it must be brought to toe the line with the ryotwari tenure in the rest of the Province. With the passing of the Bill for Zamindari abolition, a great agrarian reform would have been achieved and the foundations laid for a contented and prosperous peasantry.

Rents and Arrears

What has been said of the tenurial conditions above applies with equal force of truth to the conditions regarding rates of rent and collection of dues. Custom based on correctly ascertained laws of economics is the guiding factor in almost the whole of the ryotwari area. Rent varies from district to district and from crop to crop. It also depends on soil fertility, irrigation facilities and the frequency of cropping as will be seen from the appended statements Nos. 9 and 10. In terms of net produce, the variation is even wider. In the statement No. 8 it is seen that in Tanjore and Coimbatore it is rather low, but the statement conceals the customary perquisites which are given to the tenant on the threshing floor and by way of rent-free plots which are difficult of calculation in precise money terms. The elaborate enquiry into the detailed conditions of over 4,000 villages in the Province already referred to concluded that the rents are generally fair and the leases are for fairly long periods. Further, as pointed out in it, the bulk of land is tilled by owner-cultivators. Under these conditions, the need for a tenancy Act in ryotwari areas on the model of Bombay, or the urgency for establishment of Land Tribunals as has been suggested by reformers has not yet been felt in this Province except in Malabar district. There, however, permanent bodies of Land Tribunals consisting of ryots and landlords and presided over by officers of the Agricultural Department as distinct from the Revenue Department will have to be set up. Elsewhere it may not become necessary other than to appoint *ad hoc* Arbitration Boards as and when problems arise.

Remissions

Before leaving this question of fair rents, a few words are necessary regarding the system of remissions. It is often asked whether the landlord should not be statutorily asked to grant a certain proportion of the produce as remission when monsoons fail or floods devastate. In the system of sharing of the gross produce, such as that is customarily in force in our Province, statutory measures will lose all meaning. What is needed, however, is to see that the landlord himself gets a fair deal from the State so that he might pass it on to the tenant. Under the existing scheme of remission based on the annawari estimate as per the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue, the remissions given are highly theoretica and take little account of the cost of cultivation or the need to maintain the agriculturist and his family in times of adversity like that occasioned by droughts and floods. Until a comprehensive scheme of agricultural insurance is provided for a more liberal remisssion policy by the State will have to be adopted. Both these are engaging the attention of the Madras Government.

(*To be continued*)

The Romance of Co-operation

A Lesson from Denmark

In these days when Dictators and socalled Democrats stalk the entire world with weapons of destruction to annihilate the common man, it is both a consolation and a solace to rehearse a brilliant chapter from the history of Denmark. Mutely but marvellously this little country of hardly thirty-six lacs of souls has evolved a group life through co-operation which is at once a challenge to Fascism and Socialism.

Prior to the Nepoleanic wars Denmark was a nation of substantial importance. Unluckily she sided with the French warrior and lost heavily as a consequence of his overthrow. It was at this time that she lost some of her valuable colonies. America rose as her competitor in the market and Germany closed her doors by a protective tariff. This entirely dislocated her trade. In its wake came floods and droughts, epidemics and plagues which rendered the country prostrate and collapsed.

But happily the tide began to turn in the seventies. It started with new ideas of education. Bishop Grundtvig (1783–1872), who is known as the Spiritual Father of Denmark, started the People's High Schools. His education was a sort of *Nayee Talim* for his country and was related to the farm and cattle of the Danish farmer. Kold, his brilliant successor, completed the work of his master and organized the entire nation for the unique experiment of co-operation.

Denmark is an agricultural country and its farmer, therefore, instinctively turns to land and cattle for new life. Indeed, the Danish cow, the giver of plenty, gave the whole nation a new message and a new method of life. The Danish peasant took to dairying, butter and cheese making, raising of hogs and fowls and production of bacon; and through persevering attention to details and by establishment of co-operative marketing and buying agencies he gradually won an uncontested place in the market of England.

The details of co-operation may briefly be noted. It is so naturally woven into the life of the farmer! Through co-operation he performs for himself almost all functions that in other countries are done by others for him. He assembles his milk and makes and markets his own butter and cheese. He kills his own hogs in his own abattoirs and sells them in London through his own export agency. His agents collect his eggs and bring them to his own egg-export society where they are candled, graded and made ready for shipment to a foreign market.

Co-operatively he buys food for his cattle as well as agricultural machinery, fertilizers and seeds in distant lands. He manages his own banking in his locality and establishes his own credit. Through mutual societies he insures his house and livestock. He maintains breeding societies of pedigreed hogs, cattle and horses and controls societies for selling off his products. Fifty years ago the Danish farmer was enveloped by middlemen and the consumers and had to market through hostile agencies. To-day he is, besides being a farmer, a manufacturer, a merchant, and an exporter all in one. In this way there is scarcely an activity or an agricultural need which is not represented by its own co-operative organization. It is, therefore, usual for the farmer to be a member of at least half a dozen co-operative societies covering the whole range of his needs. The work is

managed so wonderfully that Danish bacon is shipped to England in modern motor ships fitted out with cold storage facilities and 'Lur' brand bacon is a favourite breakfast dish in every English home. In like manner Danish butter too is a world-famous article. Encouraged by this success, the farmer has extended his co-operation to the manufacture of roasting coffee, chocolate, tobacco, bicycles, etc.

The co-operative movement is so pervasive that it is hardly less than an industrial system comparable to socialism. The following figures (1933) will enlighten the readers regarding the extent to which the co-operative societies have pervaded the entire nation:

	Societies.	*Members.*
Societies for production and sale.	2,189	431,141
Societies for purchase.	2,841	152,875
Consumer Co-operatives.	1,824	335,900
Other Co-operatives.	6	749,946
	6,860	1,669,862

It is hardly necessary to say that the farmer had to fight stern opposition from private dealers who sought to kill co-operation in its infancy by paying increased prices to the farmer to destroy their loyalty to the co-operatives. Private merchants imposed monopoly prices. But the farmer defied the trap.

* * *

The co-operatives besides being an economic solvent, served as a training school for democracy. In most co-operatives the rule of 'one man, one vote' prevails, no matter how much the share of the member. This has made the farmer conscious of his importance and power in politics. He entered Parliament and negotiated changes in the interest of the common man. Gradually he managed to eliminate big landlordism and to grow small farm-steads with State aid. In this conversion of the farmer into an owner we have an economic foundation of Danish democracy. It is interesting to note his progress from tenancy to ownership;

	Tenants.	*Free owners.*
	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
1850 ..	42·5	57·5
1919 ..	5·7	94·3

Big landlords are known as Gaardmaends and the small ones as Husmaends. Till 1900 Gaardmaends were in the majority in the Danish Parliament. Since then Husmaends became the power. They have joined hands with the workers and artisans and have risen as Social Democrats who now rule the country.

This is the marvel wrought by the Danish farmer on the strength of co-operation. There was no revolution and no appeal to force. All this has been achieved in little more than the lifetime of a single generation without bloodshed. The nation has trusted its liberties without reservation to the will of the majority. Is this not non-violent rule in a way? Can we not evolve in terms of Gandhij's teachings some such co-operative method to nullify the present diabolical animosities and to stabilize our hard-earned freedom?

—*Harijan.*

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

Plant Protection Measures

Various measures have been taken by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantines and Storage set up by the Ministry of Agriculture during the last twelve months to bring under control insect pests and diseases of crops responsible for the loss of about 10 to 15 per cent of crop yields in India.

With financial assistance of the Central Government under the Grow-More-Food campaign, plant protection schemes have been in operation in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Central Provinces and Bombay and in the centrally-administered areas of Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and Delhi. The Directorate has also helped in setting up a Plant Protection Organization in the United Provinces.

The desert patrols of the Directorate have kept watch over the locust breeding areas throughout the year to detect developments of scattered locusts and to nip incipient outbreaks in their early stages. The country has remained free from infestation, though swarms are still active in parts of Arabia and Africa.

The Wheat Rust Committee of the Government of India that met in 1947 considered that the widespread rust epidemic of 1946–47 in Central India was due to infection by rust spores from Kharif wheat grown on the hill ranges of Southern India, in Mysore and South Bombay, carried by upper air currents to the affected parts. As advised by that Committee, steps were taken by the Central Government for securing the prohibition of such summer wheat cultivation by the Governments of Madras, Bombay, Mysore and Travancore.

A co-ordinated scheme of biological control is in progress with a Central Breeding Laboratory at Bangalore from which predatory beetles, bred in bulk in cages, are distributed for release in various affected areas, e.g., Travancore, Coorg, Mysore, Madras and Bombay for the control of a dangerous pest of oranges, wattle and casuarina. The infestation in the affected areas has been greatly reduced and the further spread of the pest checked.

In order to prevent the introduction of foreign insect pests and plant diseases by sea, land and air along with imported plant material, it is proposed to establish quarantine stations at most points of entry from abroad. Suitable sites for establishing modern fumigation plants have been selected at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, and a vacuum fumigation plant has been ordered in the first instance for Bombay. Similar fumigation apparatus will also be established at other sea ports.

The Storage Division of the Directorate, designed to devise measures for prevention of damage by insects, rodents and moulds during storage, has carried out the disinfestation of immense stocks of imported grain at the main ports of entry, viz., Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

In June-July, 1948, a training course was arranged at Nagpur to train candidates for storage and plant protection work. Such courses are to be arranged at other centres also from time to time.

Cotton Diseases in India

The various diseases which affect the cotton crop in India and the methods of controlling these diseases are described in the publication "Diseases of Cotton in India" just published by the Indian Central Cotton Committee.

Of these diseases, wilt and root rot are considered major affections. The losses caused by wilt range from 40 to 60 per cent in different parts of the country and those from root rot vary from about 3 to 5 per cent. These diseases are soil borne and difficult to exterminate once the soil becomes infected. The production of resistant varieties, is therefore, the main remedy. This type of control method has been fully developed in relation to wilt, and highly resistant strains have been produced for different cotton regions, for instance, Jayawant for Karnatak, Jarila for Khandesh, B.D. 8 and Vijaya for Broach and Verum 262 and 434 for Central Provinces and Berar.

These varieties are now grown every year over an area of about 2·7 million acres and it is estimated that their growers earn an additional income of Rs. 72 to 75 lakhs per annum, in comparison with what they would have earned if they had grown the susceptible types.

As regards root rot, no resistant variety has been discovered so far. However, it has been found that the losses caused by this disease can be reduced to some extent by either resorting to early or late sowing of the cotton crop, or by inter-cropping cotton with either jowar (Sorghum) or *math* (Kidney bean).

AGRICULTURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Television to Educate United States Farmers

To keep the nation's farm and city people even more fully informed on important agricultural developments and home economics research, the United States Department of Agriculture is exploring the possibility of adding television to its media of information. Already, the department is providing a wealth of information through the press, special publications, personal demonstrations and the radio.

Television would augment the departments' Radio Service by adding sight to sound. For more than 20 years, the department has broadcast a daily program of information, including weather data, market reports on grains and livestock, general agricultural news, and news of advances in plant growing, livestock feeding and home-making.

One of the reasons for the departments' interest in television is that, while some things in the broad field of agriculture can be well described in publications or told over the radio, a great many agricultural practices can be better conveyed by being actually demonstrated. To-day, techniques requiring a close-range view can be demonstrated only to relatively small groups. Television would remove limits on the size of the audience and would permit everyone to see at close range.

The fields in which television could be fruitfully employed, the department believes, include soil conservation, forest practices, poultry breeding and insecticide application. Also, many ways of using agricultural products more effectively, for example, better food canning methods, could be shown to consumers.

The television study is being conducted by the departments' Radio Service in co-operation with television networks, state agricultural extension services and other public and private agencies. The study is excepted at first to concern programs designed for the general television audience with emphasis on information useful to consumers. As television service widens however, programs would be devised to serve directly farm people and others whose responsibility it is to produce and distribute farm products—*USIS.*

Demonstration Farm

Two hundred volunteer workers, recently transformed a drab, 105 acre (42-hectare) farm into one of the most modern farms in the State of Virginia—in a single day. The volunteers, war veterans participating in the on-the-farm training program given them by the United States Government, accomplished five years of work in a single dawn-to-dusk operation.

More than 30 tractors, fertilizer spreaders, post hole diggers, and earth-moving machinery were used to plough, terrace, fertilize, and seed the entire farm according to the latest advances of agricultural science. Twenty acres (eight hectares) of permanent pasture was fenced, and a large pond dug. The farm house was painted white, the roof given a coat of heat reflecting aluminium paint, and the lawn area around the house landscaped.

The farm belongs to Mrs. Annie Poythress, a widow of 57. Thousands of farmers from the surrounding region came to watch and to learn new farming practices. The demonstration was the latest of many conducted throughout the United States during the past few years by the United States Department of Agriculture for the benefit of farmers.

Other Interesting Facts

Farm Efficiency

Each American farm worker to-day produces enough food and fibre to support himself and 13½ others whereas in 1820 the average American farm worker could support himself and only 3½ others. Taking a more recent period, the last 30 years, American farming productivity per man hour has increased 1½ times. These estimates by the United States Department of Agriculture vividly reflect the remarkable strides in production efficiency achieved by the American farming community.

Farm Machinery's Role

Domestic production of farm machinery by the European countries participating in the European Recovery Program (E.R.P.), supplemented by imports from the United States and other countries, will enable Western Europe to achieve a far more efficient

agricultural production in the years ahead than in the pre-war period.

United States Government technicians, who have studied the farm machinery import requirements submitted by the participating E.R.P. countries, have reported that the program of agricultural mechanization outlined by these countries far exceeds anything previously attained in these countries. They believe the program will greatly expand food production in the participating countries.

One of the chief objectives of this program, they explained, is to maintain and, if possible, to increase agricultural production while conserving labour. Another main objective, they said, is to increase food production by having enough power and equipment to do a better job of land preparation and cultivation than in the past, and to perform the critical tillage and harvest operations at the right time.

Mechanization of farm operations, they added, also releases land for food production that would have been required for food crops and pasture. In the United States, for example, 55,000,000 acres (22,000,000 hectares), or more than 15 per cent of the total crop land, have been released in this way in the last 30 years.

The report explains that part of the import requirements of the E.R.P. countries is based on planned changes in types of production and harvesting methods in other parts of the world. For example, the large expansion of oil seed production planned in African colonial areas will require power units and machines suitable for growing and harvesting these crops.

The report points out that the goals set by the E.R.P. countries for domestic production of farm machinery are high. These countries have estimated that total production among the participating countries of tractors will increase from 74,000 in 1946–47 to 380,000 in 1950–51, or an increase of 400 per cent.

"If these targets are achieved," the report continues, "production of tractors in the participating countries at the end of the recovery period will slightly exceed the current rate of production in the United States and production of other farm machinery would approach current levels in the United States . . . In view of supply difficulties in steel, fuel and certain other materials, it is believed that production will lag somewhat behind schedule, but large increases over pre-war output are believed possible."

"In a democracy the majority necessarily must govern through duly elected representatives. That imposes upon the minority a duty to accept the results of a fair election. In a democracy the minority defeated in a fair election has the privilege of seeking to become a majority through subsequent persuasion of the voters to adhere to its principles.

"In a democracy heads are counted, not broken. Political issues are settled with freely cast ballots, thus avoiding use of force. That calls for discussion, exchange of views on political platforms and candidates as regards attainments and capacity, but not offensive verbal personal attacks or acts of terrorism. Democracy has been called Government by discussion.

"Elections in Korea, the conduct of the campaign, and the results therefrom, will attract worldwide attention. The actions of the Korean nation and its people will be watched closely by certain groups that wish to be extremely critical and fault finding. Wholehearted acceptance of democratic principles and responsibilities are part and parcel of the accountability and obligations of members of the family of nations.

"I hope to see the election supported and carried out by Koreans in a manner which will be creditable to their nation. No individual, group, or combination of groups can be permitted to nullify the workings of the democratic processes of election. This is the greatest opportunity of all time for all Koreans to demonstrate that they can completely handle their own affairs in a democratic manner and can conduct fair and free elections under laws developed by Koreans themselves . . . "

DELHI DIARY

Scholarships for Scheduled Caste Students

About 600 scholarships of the total value of Rs. 3,85,000 will be given to Scheduled Caste students for pursuing their studies in India during the year 1948–49.

* * *

Over 1½ lakh acres cultivated by Tractors

An area of 120,795 acres of land has been brought under cultivation by the use of tractors by the various Provincial Governments and the expected yield from these areas is 8,642 tons, according to a statement laid on the table by Shri Jairamdas Dualatram, Minister for Agriculture, in the Dominion Parliament today.

In addition, 33,800 acres have been brought under cultivation by the Central Tractor Organization, 25,800 acres in United Provinces and 8,000 acres in Central Provinces. The yield expected in United Provinces is 8,600 tons and in Central Province 2,667 tons.

The Central Tractor Organization is also operating a scheme for mechanical cultivation of 50,000 acres of land left by Muslims in the Matsya Union. The scheme was put into operation towards the month of July and so far 9,643 acres have been cultivated.

Provincewise the details of the area brought under cultivation by the various Governments and the expected yields are as follows :—

Province.	*Area brought under cultivation.*	*Expected yield.*
	ACS.	TONS.
Bombay ..	103,800	4,432
Madras ..	10,025	1,750
United Provinces.	355	118
West Bengal ..	200	100
East Punjab ..	4,000	1,429
Assam	2,140	715
Orissa	275	98
Total ..	120,795	8,642

* * *

Largest Sugarcane Research Centre in Asia

The preliminary steps to establish an Institute of Sugar Technology and Sugarcane Research which may be the largest of its kind in Asia were decided at a meeting of the *ad hoc* advisory sub-committee of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee held in the Council House, Lucknow.

Plan for Increasing Milk Production

A five-year plan for increasing milk production in the country has been prepared by the Dairy Development Adviser of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The plan envisages eight specific projects, viz. (i) Milk-cum-bull production farms, (ii) small holder milk production farms, (iii) colonization of dislodged city cattle, (iv) artificial insemination of cattle, (v) cross-breeding of inferior milch stock, (vi) co-operative milk unions, (vii) co-operative rural creameries (ghee) and (viii) increased production of green fodder and silage.

Suggestions for implementing the plan have also been made. Copies of the plan will be sent to the Provinces for adoption as far as possible with an assurance that the Centre will provide all possible help by way of technical guidance, advice, etc., for the implementation of the same.

* * *

Tree Planting

Addressing the inhabitants of a village near Delhi, recently Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, the Food and Agriculture Minister explained the idea underlying the planting of trees. Trees, he said, would help in saving organic manure which was necessary for cultivation and which at present was being used as fuel. When the trees grew up they could be expected to yield sufficient fuel for the village so that cowdung could be utilized as manure.

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram appealed to the villagers to develop greater enthusiasm for their work in their own as well as in the interests of the country.

Sir Datar Singh referred to Delhi's rural development scheme which was in operation with Bowana as the headquarters of the Rural Development Officer-in-charge of it. The scheme was planned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to develop twenty villages round about Delhi in order to put into practice all the results of economic value obtained by the Council as a result of researches carried out for many years both in agriculture and animal husbandry. The central idea behind the scheme was the improvement in the conditions of the cultivators, through their own efforts, in the direction of increasing the area under cultivation and obtaining better yields by sowing improved seeds and using better implements and more manures. The Council is encouraging cultivators to develop cottage industries such as poultry, piggery and dairying as subsidiary occupations and attention is also paid to the general improvement of the social and cultural life in the villages.

* * *

India's Power and Irrigation Projects

The various projects for irrigation and power development which are under construction or investigation in India will, when completed, add over 27 million acres of irrigation to India's existing 48 million and about nine million kilowatts of hydro-electric energy to the existing paltry half million.

It is stated that roughly six per cent of the water available in the rivers of this country and the subsoils has so far been utilized ; the rest runs to waste, and in its progress to the sea does incalculable damage to life and property through uncontrolled floods. There is immense scope for utilizing this water for irrigation purposes.

Another vital need of the moment is cheap power. The total installed capacity in the country has not so far passed the half million kilowatts mark, although, on a rough estimation, the total water power potential in India must be near forty million kilowatts.

* * *

Village Oil Industry

A Sub-Committee of the Indian Oilseeds Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, has been appointed to study in detail the position of the village oil industry in different areas with a view to developing this industry and to suggest, if necessary, measures that should be taken to protect the industry from competition from power oil mills.

* * *

Marketing Measures in Bihar and Bombay

Ghee Grading is getting popular in Bihar and a number of applications have been received for grading of mustard oil. The Government of Bihar is considering proposals for establishing a laboratory at Patna, so that it might serve as a subsidiary quality control laboratory under the " Agmark " scheme. Proposals for establishing a Government Laboratory at Darbhanga for the grading of ghee of small producers are under consideration.

In Bombay a five-year plan has been drawn up in connection with the organization of regulated markets and work is proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

> Decency and toleration to be of value must be capable of standing the severest strain. If they cannot, it will be a sad day for India. Let us not make it easy for critics to say that we did not deserve liberty.
>
> —MAHATMA GANDHI.

Bombay Premier's Message to "Young Patriots"

The idealism of Youth must breakdown the walls and embrace all mankind as the field of its loyalty, its allegiance and its service.

Remember also that the Indian Union is a democracy. That means Government is to be carried on according to the will of the people and any changes in it must come by persuation, propaganda and discussion. Violence, fascist methods of force, attempts to deprive any section of the people, with whom you may differ in any way, of their natural rights are totally repugnant to the spirit of democracy as also to the teachings of our beloved Bapu. Democracy does not steam-roll differences—it welcomes them and, by the exercise of toleration, friendship and reasonableness it attempts to weave the different elements into a rich, variegated but harmonious pattern.

Clean and Efficient Public Service

'Jobbery and nepotism, which were a feature of bureaucratic regime and which were the bane of the service, ought to have no place now. They must go if we want our services to be clean and efficient, satisfied and contented. It is largely on good administration that the moral and material well-being of a nation must ultimately depend. The sooner we realize this the better for all concerned'. Thus observed Mr. Gopinath Srivastava, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, United Provinces, in the course of his note on the annual report of the working of the U.P. Public Service Commission for the year 1947–48 and on the 'Role of Service Commissions.'

OTHER PROVINCES AND STATES

Road Safety in Bombay

The Traffic Control Department of the Greater Bombay Police has prepared a few short lectures on Road Safety. It is intended that these lectures be given by Traffic Police officers to school students.

* * *

Village Defence Parties in Bombay

The strength of the Village Defence Parties organized by the Government of Bombay throughout the Province with a view to putting down violent crime against property, etc., and fostering a spirit of co-operation amongst the villagers reached the figure of 275,892 recently. Many of these have received training in musketry, while some of them hold gun licences.

The parties also make use of other weapons such as lathis, spears, bows and arrows, swords and jambias.

Out of the 21,472 villages in the Province, 6,099 villages have formed defence parties.

* * *

Combating Malaria in East Punjab

To make villages in East Punjab malaria-proof, the panchayats have launched a campaign throughout the Province for the removal of manure heaps, other filthy stuff from places which germinate mosquitoes and flies and are responsible for outbreak of malaria and epidemics in villages. Besides this "keep your village clean" campaign, the panchayats are also busy educating the ignorant villagers about the elementary principles of sanitation and personal hygiene.

* * *

Rural Development in East Punjab

With a view to giving opportunities to villagers to meet together to discuss problems concerning them and thus bring about better understanding about each other, attempts are being made to construct meeting places in every village. It is proposed to make use of such places for keeping them into touch with day-to-day developments in the country. Such places will also be utilized for settling personal disputes amongst themselves, so that litigation which has been quite popular in the past, is discouraged. The panchayat in Chhara in Rohtak district has constructed similar place and have named it Gandhi Ashram to serve as a common meeting place for them.

* * *

Board of Agriculture in U.P.

The United Provinces Government have constituted a Board of Agriculture. The Board will also consider the steps to be taken for regulating on suitable lines, the research and development work on agriculture, and to secure continuity of research, giving priority to problems in accordance with their relative importance and usefulness to the Province.

* * *

Tree Planting in U.P.

In order to meet the increasing demand for fruit and fuel trees, under the Tree Plantation Drive launched by the Government of the United Provinces, a large number of various types of fruit and fuel plants have been propagated by the Garden Section of the Agriculture Department.

* * *

Fish Shops in West Punjab

The Fisheries Section of the Department of Agriculture, West Punjab, has opened shops in eight different towns where fresh fish is being sold to the public. This measure is a part of the drive recently launched to increase the production and consumption of fish in the Province.

Farms and Compost Work in Orissa

Seven subsidized farms have been started in Puri district. Similarly, in each police station compost work has been taken up by general fieldmen demonstrators. An amount of Rs. 4,222 has been distributed to the cultivators as rewards for composting; and 1,000 cubic feet of night-soil manure and adequate quantity of compost manure have been supplied to cultivators.

* * *

Amenities in Bombay

The Government of Bombay has approved a scheme for widening the reading room and library activities in labour localities of the Province.

* * *

Cottage Industries Institute in Bikaner

The Cottage Industries Institute, Bikaner, gives training in handloom weaving, dyeing, hosiery, knitting, paper-making and in leather and lacquer work. The boys who have been trained in the Weaving Section of this Institute can earn Rs. 3 per day. Modern appliances, like power twisting machine, have been installed. In the Dyeing Section of this Institute cotton and woollen yarn and cloth are dyed, bleached, milled and pressed. Socks-making machines have been purchased for Hosiery Section.

A start has been made with hand-made paper as well. The factory has made 575 quires of blotting paper, finished and unfinished, and 200 quires of foolscap size paper, finished and unfinished, including exercise book, table pads, writing pads, envelops, etc.

Two similar institutes were opened in 1945 and in 1947. Provision has been made to start similar centres at other places.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

Anything except pictures appearing in this journal may be freely reproduced.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

"BHAGAVAT GITA AND MODERN LIFE."

By K. M. MUNSHI, *Bharata Vidya Bhavan, Bombay. Price Rs.* 6.

Bhagavat Gita can well be called a world classic. It has been translated into almost all known languages of the world and its editions too are many. Recently Yale University has issued a new edition with the original printed (not in Devanagari but in English script with diacritical marks) on one side and the English translation on the other. It looks as if the Great Book of the Hindus which is literally the 'Lord's Song' is gathering momentum in its onward march as the knowledge advances in this world. The secret of its popularity deserves investigation. Mr. Munshi's book gives the clue. Bhagavat Gita preaches the philosophy of action and not of mere silence, or meditation, or seclusion. Its teachings are non-sectarian in character. The principles it enunciates could be followed by all and sundry if they possess the necessary mental equipment. It is this aspect of the Gita that appeals to moderns more than anything else.

The philosophical background of the Gita has been explained and interpreted by many a scholar and saint in Bharata Varsha. One section of them has gone to the length of even proclaiming that it contains only the essence of many Upanishads and its teachings contain no new thought or doctrine. But this view acknowledges its greatness in an indirect form. If it is only a reproduction of what Upanishads embodied, how do you account for the strange and unique phenomenon that Upanishads are forgott-n, while 'Gita' has survived? Its approach to the life problem is different. Hindu philosophy for long preached isolation of the self and its union with the supreme self as the surest solution of life's problems. It bears the stamp of a defeatist philosophy while Gita asks you to face life in all its vissicitudes and trials. With a determination and will that could not be conquered. Such a will could only be the outcome of a dynamic personality, the cultivation of which is the fundamental doctrine of the Bhagavat Gita.

"Shake off the wretched faint-heartedness,
Stand up, Oh, harasser of foes."

It was not easy for Arjuna to whom the sermon is preached to get rid of this faint-heartedness. He sees before him his own teachers, elders, kith and kin against whom he was forced by circumstances to fight. These include his great grandfather Bhishma whose towering personality commanded respect and reverence from all and who has hardly an equal in knowledge, heroism and sacrifice and yogic perfection. The faint-hearted Arjuna feels it is a sin to shoot his arrow against such unblemished characters for personal gain or acquisition of a kingdom or Empire. Himself a man of action, he is a victim of the circumstances, "Fearless though cautious and thorough, doubting but wanting to be convinced"—He does not want to escape from life. He is not a recluse meditating in cloistered seclusion, scorning action." Finding him in that unenviable position the Lord who was till now his comrade assumes the role of the teacher and begins his discourse emphasising on the necessity of action each human being should subscribe himself to, according to his station in life. Here the principles that govern the four-fold divisions of Society are revealed. This division has been the burden of the song for every Hindu religious teacher. In essence it is only a division according to the natural aptitudes of man to be either a Brahman—one who is versed in religious lore and ritual, Kshatriya—a fighter, Vaisya—merchant, Sudra—a servant. These four functions are essential to the well-being of Society. When the system fossilized into hereditary corporations one dominating one over the other, disintegration was the result. But in practice it displayed considerable laxity and freedom which in critical situations proved its strength and preserved the Hindu society intact, resisting inroads into it with remarkable tenacity and cohesion.

To be a man of action one should endeavour to perfect one's physical and mental qualities. Here the yogic system is explained in detail wherein besides the various disciplinary practices, the sublimation of the sex comes to play a prominent part. It is this discipline, that transforms the character of a man making him capable of great achievements in this world. It is in this respect or approach that 'Gita' makes a distinct step forward when compared to the teachings of Upanishads. The Lord's unique achievement is the transformation of a faint-hearted Arjuna into a dynamic personality which is the quintessence as already indicated of the philosophy of Gita. This has a real bearing on life and rightly Munshi emphasises this truth about the philosophy of the Gita. His analysis of a dynamic personality is most illuminative and brilliant and forms his original contribution to the large volume of Gita literature. He does not rest content with an abstract description of a dynamic personality and elucidates his theme by giving examples from the Great Sankara down to modern Ramakrishna and the Mahatma. He also pictures for us the dynamic personalities of other countries particularly of Europe, such as Calvin, Napoleon, and Marcus Aurilius drawing our pointed attention to the qualities they lacked which marked them except the last as magnificent failures in history. This comparative study again is a new and refreshing feature of Munshi's reflections on Gita and reveals his firm grip on the fundamentals of life. Among the later day thinkers Ezuttaccan, the epic poet of Kerala (1500 A.D.), is foremost in emphasising this aspect of the teaching of Gita. In his monumental translation of Mahabaratha, he has omitted Bhagavat Gita; But he has this significant observation on it: "What the Lord said is known as Gita and contains mostly truths embodied in Upanishads. But He showed his *Viswarupa* which tansformed Arjuna into a dynamic personality and made him fight to the last without fear."

Munshi's interpretation of Brahmacharya is another original contribution by him to the Hindu philosophical thought. His imagination as a writer of fiction and romances seems to have moulded his view on this particular issue. Our philosophers and saints have insisted on abstenation from sex as a necessary qualification for spiritual perfection and taught us to look upon women as an evil. One wonders why God created woman if she is an evil. The very saints who denounce women owe their existence to them as mothers. What a travesty of thought evolution!! Munshi with all the force he can command turns our attention to the

heroines of our epics whose achievements are no way inferior to the heroes implying thereby that our men of letters have shown more reasonableness in this aspect. He proclaims "mere sex abstention is not a sublimation of the sex." Sex is the source of creative energy which results only from its regulation, concentration and prevention of its waste. This purpose is fulfilled by sacremental marriage. Says he, "After such a marriage man and wife become one not merely in the eyes of law but are fused into a single personality by ritualistic magic; whom God united, no man should part." He contrasts this against the modern contractual marriage, which is akin to hunger that "prefers to change food whenever appetite hankers after a change." He quotes examples of sadhus who through abstention of sex could never achieve anything remarkable while inspiration engendered by love has been the motive force behind many great literary and artistic achievements. Mirabai of India and Dante of Europe are standing monuments. The author says:—"If men and women are going to be led to perfection by developing creative vigour, sublimation of the sex urge cannot be left as a process to be pursued by a man or woman singly. In the past man or woman has sought his or her individual perfection. In the future marriage must mean the common effort to scale the heights of an undivided perfection."

Munshi as a creative artist is well known all over India. The present work will considerably enhance his reputation as a thinker. This publication deserves close study and attention by all who have the welfare of India and her Society at heart.

The other volumes in the series will surely be eagerly awaited by the reading public. —K.C.N.

"THE MAN-EATING LEOPARD OF RUDRAPRAYAG"

By JIM CORBETT. *Publishers: The Oxford University Press, Madras. Pages* 157. *Price Rs.* 6.

The author's first jungle book the "Man-eaters of Kumaon" has already earned a name for him and here he describes his exciting experience while endeavouring to kill a man-eating leopard which had established a veritable reign of terror for eight years among fifty thousand inhabitants in Garhwal in the United Provinces. Starting with the first kill in 1918, by 1926 the leopard had to its credit one hundred and twenty-five kills according to Government records, which led to questions being asked in the United Provinces. Legislature on the terrific havoc done by this ghastly carnivore to the life and property of the inhabitants of the locality and to pilgrims who passed that way to Kedernath and Badrinath. At the instance of the United Provinces Government, in 1925, the author proceeded to the scene of operation of this man-eating leopard. After a prolonged and persistent effort, mixed with disappointment and distress sometimes with hairbreadth escapes from the very mouth of the leopard, the brute which was attributed with "evil spirit" eventually fell to his rifles. Thus he brought relief and security to many a terror-striken family. The author's capacity for systematic observation and scientific investigation is highly commendable. The book is well written and gives perfect material for diligent reading, giving much insight into Indian jungle life.

—M.A.K.

"HISTORY OF THE HOME LAND"

By HENRY HAMILTON, M.A., D.LITT. *Published by George Allen and Unwin, Limited,* 40, *Museum Street, London, pp.* 600. *Price* 18*s. nett.*

'History of the Home Land' unfolds a continuous picture of Britain through past ages, taking within its range not merely a political history of Britain, but also the ecological, sociological and economic development during the whole period. The essential assumption of history as Henry Hamilton uses the term, is not the episode of wasteful strife, deplomatic chicanery or power politics which has provoked chauvinism and promoted flag workship, drawing mankind towards self-destruction, but a proper interpretation and renovation of a social and cultural heritage which help to convey to posterity a sense of vitality, stateliness and achievements. History as conceived by the conventional text-book writers, is irrelevant to the problems of an atomic age where "national boundaries now figure as the creation of children pegging individual claims to a place on the earth's surface, after much futile bickering and squabbling and stand-up fights." Hence the only proper approach to the history of the people is to treat it as a natural apologitics of a continuing progress intended to establish peace and prosperity on earth. The author has carefully examined the general character of the history of human life in Britain in its entirety, beginning with Palaeolithic age, bringing to light the Neolithic revolution, the evolution of the people, the growth of their thought and civilization. There are chapters on the Land, People and their habits, on Money, Commerce and allied problems; on Social Organization, Labour movements and their progress. It also deals with the growth of the British Dominions, Economic Imperialism, Slave Trade, Social Security, Education, and the struggle for freedom of thought and freedom of person. The chronicles are undoubtedly valuable and they are unlimited in interest, and impartial in approach. There are more than a hundred illustrations and a few maps. Mr. Henry Hamilton's book is a creative publication, a product of careful and well-documented research and a full length study of the Britons. The book is as much of interest to the historian as to the student of social progress.

—M.A.K.

"THE VERTICAL MAN"

By W. G. ARCHER, ALLEN AND UNWIN, 1947. *Pp.* 122, 49 *plates. Price* 15*s.*

Art being the "mathematics of the heart" requires for its understanding, appreciation and interpretation, an inborn taste for it. The author of this interesting and original book seems to possess this inborn taste in an abundant measure. As an administrator, he has been taking keen interest in the art and poetry of the tribes of Bihar amidst whom his official duties threw him. Though *Vertical Man* is primarily a study of primitive art, the author has so carefully analysed the religious and ritual background of the folk art that this work would easily rank as one of the best contributions to Indian anthropology.

The Ahirs, a pastoral tribe of Western Bihar, make representations in wood and stone of their cattle-god, Bir Kuar. These stone and wooden sculptures are the highest form of offering which they make to Bir Kuar for the manifold benefits he confers upon them. Though varying in details, the images of Bir Kuar are all made in one traditional style. Not having the training or skill to attempt anything bordering on naturalism, the primitive sculptors of Bihar have stumbled on a powerful "vital geometric" style which alone would suit their supernatural theme.

So very little is known, and much less written, about the folk art of

India that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the author. Folk art, in the ultimate analysis, will be found to be the source of the classical art of India ; a proper understanding of the latter is often impossible without going to the sources of its inspiration. We want more authors of the type of Mr. Archer to interpret our icons which have long suffered at the hands of scholars whose only qualification for the work of interpretation used to be their knowledge of iconography. It required an artist, Rodin, to *discover* the b auty of the South Indian Dancing Siva !

A. AIYAPPAN.

"SONOPA SKETCH BOOK"

By JOHN W. HILTON, *The Macmillan Company, New York. Price* $ 5·00.

This book is an int resting collection of facts about the life, habits and customs of an amazingly simple people of Sowora, a Mexican State. The author, Mr. John Hilton is an elegant writer and an excellent artist. An artist can often see in landscapes and people aspects that escape the observation of laymen and this attainment Mr. Hilton uses with rare skill. He was a sojourner in Sonora, travelling, sketching, painting and collecting scientific specimens as a semi-naturalist. The vivid description of its countryside, the short bright sketches of the common and simple folk who believe anything that strikes their imagination, who enjoy the folklore fiestas, oblivious of time, with their habits centred round rituals and long-established customs and its deep psychology, render the book particularly interesting and easy to read. The book is a labour of love and one must admire the quiet humour which runs throughout the chapters. In respect of matter, illustration, paper, print and binding this book reflects great credit on all associated with its production.

—M.A.K.

"RURAL RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS"

By C. V. HANUMANTA RAO. *Price Rs.* 1–12–0. *Copies available with the author,* 11, *Monteith Road, Egmore, Madras.*

An earnest study of one of the most vital problems of the day by a well known publicist and author, this book deserves the attention of administrators, social workers and all those who are interested in that ever-dynamic problem—the problem of Rural India. The problem of Indian Rural Reconstruction is not a subject which at any time suffered from any dearth of literature. Thesis after thesis has been written on the subject by economists, political thinkers and by exponents of various schools of socio-economic thought. But one finds something refreshing in Mr. Hanumantha Rao's analysis of the problem. In the following words he gives expression to the growing realization that no programme of national reconstruction can be carried to its successful conclusion without the willing and intelligent co-operation of the people for whom it is intended. Writing on the Madras Government's Firka Development Scheme, Mr. Hanumantha Rao says 'The scheme predicates public co-operation—intelligent, full and active public co-operation—and the prevalence of the will to self-help and self-reliance among the villagers. No scheme which is designed for the welfare of the people can be a success without the people themselves evincing an interest in its successful working. It calls for intelligent and active interest and co-operation of the villagers even as it demands a radical change of outlook in those connected with the administrative machinery at the top.' In eight chapters pregnant with facts, Mr. Hanumantha Rao deals with some of the basic considerations of Rural Reconstruction, Inter-departmental Co-ordination and Self-help, Government Khadi Scheme, Village Industries, Place of Co-operation in Rural Development, Harijan Uplift and Grow-More-Food Schemes, 'Back-to-the-Village' Movements and lastly ends with a few general postulates on the fundamentals of rural reconstruction. The book thus provides an earnest and comprehensive study of some of the most important rural development schemes, sponsored by the Government of Madras, explaining and elucidating those schemes and occasionally giving helpful suggestions and hints borne out of the author's own studies and observations. With a thought-provoking foreward by Dr. B. Pattabhi Seetharamiah, this book is a guide for all citizens who are alert in the conte.t of the new dispensation.

—K.B.N.

"THE WORLD OF INDUSTRY"

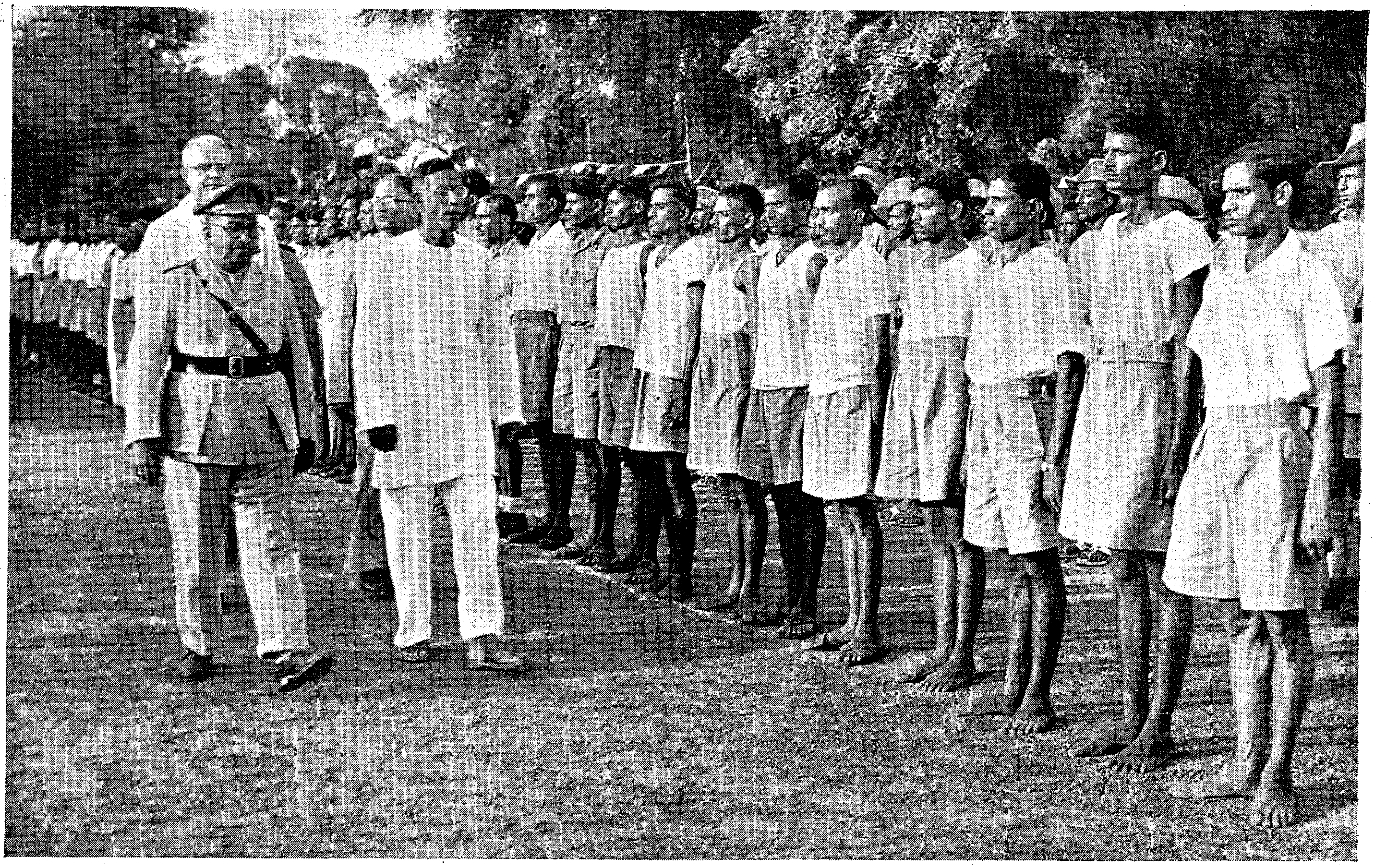
By A. P. YOUNG. *Published by George Gill and Sons, Limited, London.*

The purpose of this book has been explained as educational. It seeks to give a comprehensive and balanced picture of the world of industry showing the inter-connection and the inter-dependence of four basic divisions—growing, mining, making and moving the things needed to support life and maintain continuity. The book is divided into six parts and runs into more than 300 pages. It is profusely illustrated and contains a wealth of information which may be specially useful to people engaged in industrial enterprises. One chapter is devoted to pioneers and personalities and contains pen pictures of outstanding industrial pioneers and personalities in Great Britain, U.S.A., and Germany. The pen pictures are very interesting and provide a lot of guidance and lessons.

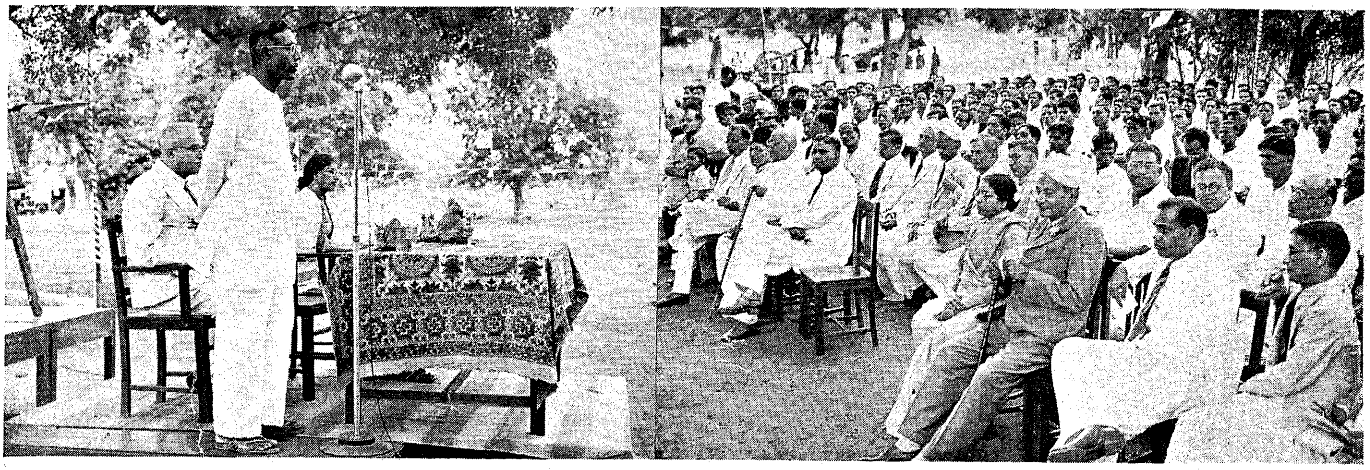
The book is a useful publication and is worth perusal.

—T.K.G.

PREPARING FOR WAR ON DRINK

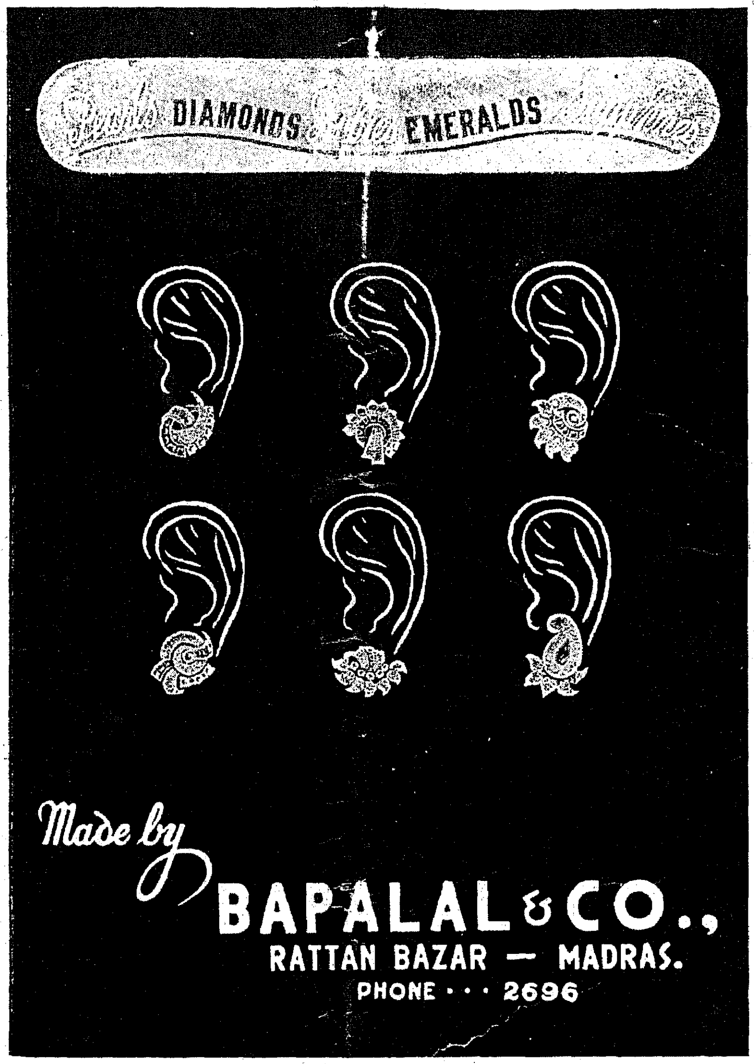


Hon'ble Dr. Gurubatham was presented with a guard of honour in connection with the opening of the Prohibition Staff Training College Madras



The Hon'ble Minister is speaking at the function

Registered No. M-4767.



BAPALAL & CO.,

Diamond Merchants and Manufacturing Jewellers,
Rattan Bazaar, Madras-3

Telegram: " NECKLACE " *Telephone*: **2696**

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS. EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY.